THURSDAY
March 5, 2026

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
18 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

Vol. 57 • No. 54

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

To subscribe, give a missed call at 9828331787 or scan QR code

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PACKING A PUNCH

Black Caps stun the Proteas, enter final

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NEARBY

Budget 2026: Govt. faces a tightrope walk

BENGALURU
As the Congress government in Karnataka gears up to present the 2026–27 Budget on Friday, it faces a tightrope walk between containing revenue deficit and funding its guarantee schemes, amid speculation over a possible change of Chief Minister after the Budget Session. » PAGE 6

Final clearance yet to come for RCB matches

BENGALURU
Even as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Tuesday announced that they will play five league matches on their home ground, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, sources in the committee told The Hindu that conducting the matches is still subject to their "clearance". » PAGE 4

U.S. sinks Iranian vessel near Sri Lanka

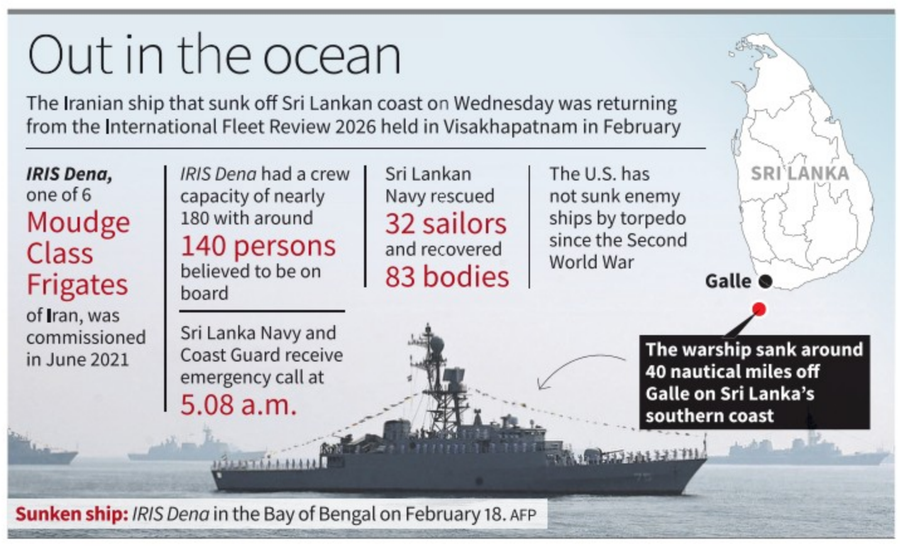
- Sri Lankan Navy responds to distress call, rescues 32 sailors and recovers 83 bodies
- U.S. submarine used torpedo to sink Iran's ship in international waters, says Hegseth
- Ship was returning from Visakhapatnam after global maritime exercise in February

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

A U.S. submarine attacked an Iranian warship on Wednesday, which sank in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Sri Lanka, bringing the West Asian conflict closer to the Indian subcontinent. At least 83 people were killed in the torpedo attack.

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth confirmed the strike at a press conference in Washington DC. "An American submarine sunk an Iranian warship that thought it was safe in international waters. Instead, it was sunk by a torpedo," Mr. Hegseth said, terming it a "quiet death" and the "first sinking of an enemy ship" by a torpedo since the Second World War. "Like in that war," Mr. Hegseth said, "we are fighting to win".

The Sri Lankan Navy rescued 32 sailors and recovered 83 bodies after a dawn distress call from the Iranian frigate *IRIS Dena*, which sank about 40 nautical miles off Galle on the island's southern coast, Sri Lankan authorities said.



Sunken ship: *IRIS Dena* in the Bay of Bengal on February 18. AFP

The distress call from the frigate came at 5.08 a.m. IST, Sri Lanka's Foreign Minister Vijitha Herath told the nation's Parliament later in the day. Sri Lanka responded swiftly, owing to its obligations under the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue, Mr. Herath said.

"By 6 a.m. we dispatched a naval vessel and by 7 a.m. the second naval vessel," he told the House. The injured sailors were taken to a state-run hospital in the southern Galle district. According to Sri Lankan Navy spokesperson Buddhika Sampath, the frigate was not visible when the rescuers reached the spot. The Navy is yet to probe the cause for the distress call, and is currently "focused on search and rescue operations," he added. "As of now we have recovered 83 bodies," he told *The Hindu* at 9.45 p.m.

Naval sources told *The Hindu* that while the personnel capacity of *IRIS Dena* was nearly 180, only around 140 people were believed to have been on board at the time of the incident.

IRIS Dena was returning to Iran after participating in the International Fleet Review 2026, a global maritime exercise held in Visakhapatnam in February.

When contacted, Iranian Ambassador to Sri Lanka, Alireza Delkhosh, who was on his way from Colombo to Galle, told *The Hindu*: "We have no information yet on the cause, we are in close contact with Sri Lankan authorities. I am on my way to see the survivors."

Sri Lanka has not commented on the U.S. claim of responsibility for the torpedo attack on the Iranian vessel. Sri Lanka had expressed "deep concern over the rapid escalation of hostilities" in the widening war in West Asia, now in its fifth day, and called on "all concerned parties to exercise maximum restraint and to take immediate and decisive action to de-escalate tensions".

SELFIES TO WATERY GRAVE
» PAGE 7
MORE REPORTS ON
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U.S. and Israel hammer Iran on fifth day of war

DUBAI
The U.S. and Israel hit Iran's capital and other cities in air strikes on Wednesday, the fifth day of the war with Iran, as the Islamic Republic responded with missile barrages and drone attacks across the region. The Israeli military said air defences were activated to intercept Iranian missiles fired at targets around the country, and explosions were heard around Jerusalem. » PAGE 14

Indices tumble as markets respond to oil uncertainty

MUMBAI
Indian investors continued selling on Wednesday, triggering the benchmark indices to tumble in the second consecutive session as oil prices surged on closure of Strait of Hormuz. The benchmark Nifty 50 and Sensex 30 closed at 24,480.50 and 79,116.19 points, down 1.5% and 1.4% respectively on Wednesday, responding to the oil shock. » PAGE 13

'Toxic' release delayed due to 'West Asia tensions'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The highly-anticipated Kannada film '*Toxic: A Fairly Tale for Grown-Ups*', starring Yash, has been postponed. Makers KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations announced the development on Wednesday. The film was originally scheduled for release on March 19. Directed by Geetu Mohandas, the gangster drama will now hit the screens on June 4.

The makers have given the "ongoing volatile escalation and regional instability in West Asia" as the reason for the film's delay.

"As advised by one of their major distribution partner Phars Films, the decision to reschedule the release was made in response to escalating tensions and the resulting disruptions to cinema operations across the Gulf region, a key market for the film's multi-language global rollout," the makers said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON
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Five from Bengaluru killed in road accident near Palamaner

The Hindu Bureau
CHITTOOR

Five residents of Rajajinagar in Bengaluru were killed in a road accident near Gangavaram Cross, near Palamaner, on the Chittoor-Bengaluru NH on Wednesday. They were on the way to the Venkateswara Temple in Tirumala, police said.

The deceased – three women and two men – were identified as Mohan Das (71), Nagaraja Rao (61), Kusuma (61), Jayanthi (59) and Pooja (33).

The car which met with an accident near Palamaner in Chittoor district, killing five persons on Wednesday.

The car they were travelling in reportedly hit the rear of a stationary lorry on the highway, killing the five on the spot.

Police shifted the bodies for post-mortem examination and informed the families of the deceased. A case has been registered.

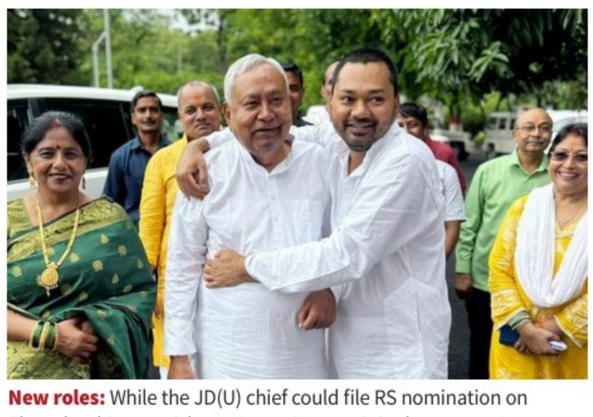
Nitish may enter RS, make way for new BJP CM

Amarnath Tewary
PATNA

While Bihar celebrated Holi, Patna witnessed hectic political activity on Wednesday over reports that Janata Dal(U) leader Nitish Kumar would resign as Chief Minister and go to the Rajya Sabha.

Top BJP sources told *The Hindu* that Bihar would soon have a new Chief Minister.

"At a meeting of their party with JD(U) leaders held after the results of Assembly election in Bihar, a suggestion was made that a succession plan for the government be made within a year of the results. It was conveyed that a succession plan for the government needed to be in place factoring in the future of the JD(U)," a source said.



New roles: While the JD(U) chief could file RS nomination on Thursday, his son Nishant Kumar is set to join the party. ANI

If Mr. Kumar relinquishes his post, the next Chief Minister would be from the BJP. Party sources said "he/she will be from the backward class".

JD(U) leader Zama Khan said that Mr. Kumar's son Nishant Kumar would join the party on Thursday. "Yes, Nishant Kumar is going to join the party tomorrow at 11 a.m. and it will strengthen both our party and its organisation," the State's Minister of Minority Welfare told presspersons.

Sources said that Union Home Minister Amit Shah will visit Patna on Thursday to be present on the occasion of possible "regime change" in the State on a day when NDA's Rajya Sabha candidates, including BJP president Nitin Nabin, will file their nominations.

Earlier, coming out of a meeting at the Chief Minister's official residence, JD(U) MLC and long-time close aide to Mr. Kumar, Sanjay Gandhi, said, "We'll support whatever decision Nitish Kumar will take. We'll support him even if he goes to the Rajya Sabha."

Party sources said Mr. Kumar may file his nomination for the Rajya Sabha on Thursday morning.

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MVA BACKS SHARAD FOR RS
» PAGE 11

Prisoners can be given home-cooked food only on medical advice, says High Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that home-cooked food for undertrials can be given only on medical advice for health reasons and not on a mere request, the High Court of Karnataka set aside the trial court's order of allowing home-cooked food once a week to actor Darshan, his friend Pavithra Gowda, and other accused persons in the Renukaswamy murder case.

"Home-cooked food for undertrial prisoners is not prohibited. But it can be granted only in accordance with the prison rules and procedures noted herein above. Medical advice must precede the grant of home-cooked food. Permission cannot be granted merely on request or as a matter of indulgence," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing a petition filed by the Superintendent of Prisons, who had questioned the legality of two separate orders passed by the 56th Additional City Civil and Sessions Court on December 29, 2025, and January 12, 2026.

The trial court's order is legally unsustainable as it directed the grant of home-cooked food without prior medical examination or recommendations, the High Court said while pointing out that granting of such concessions indiscriminately to some inmates would create chaos in the prison management as other inmates would also be entitled to similar treatment.

The trial court on December 29 had allowed home-cooked food for Pavithra Gowda (accused number-1), Nagaraja R. (accused number-11), and Lakshman M. (accused number-12) merely on oral requests made by their advocates that no proper food was being provided to them in the prison, without filling any application as per the procedure in this regard.

When the Superintendent sought clarification on this order citing provisions in the prisons rules and the apex court's direction of not to give special treatment to these accused persons, the trial court not only warned the Superintendent of consequences for not providing home-cooked food despite its direction, but directed the official to provide home-cooked food to all the accused persons in the Renukaswamy murder case in the absence of any application from them.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 2

T.N. polls: DMK seals pact as Congress gets 28 seats, one Rajya Sabha berth

B. Kolappan
CHENNAI

The ruling DMK and the Congress signed a seat-sharing pact for the election to the 234-member Tamil Nadu Assembly, after days of uncertainty and hard bargain. According to the agreement, signed by DMK president and Chief Minister M.K. Stalin and TNCC president K. Selvaperunthagai, the Congress will contest 28 seats, three more than its 2021 election allotment. It has also been given a Rajya Sabha berth.

The alliance, which at one point appeared to collapse over demands for power-sharing and more seats, was saved after Congress veteran P. Chidambaram stepped in as an emissary of the party high command and held discussions with Mr. Stalin on Tuesday.

Dust settles: Tamil Nadu Congress president Selvaperunthagai after talks with DMK chief M.K. Stalin in Chennai on Wednesday. PTI

Key meetings

Mr. Stalin reached Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters, before the arrival of the Congress leaders on Wednesday night. Girish Chodankar, AICC in-charge for Tamil Nadu and head of the Congress seat-sharing committee, Mr. Selvaperunthagai, Congress Legislature Party leader Rajesh Kumar and others met the Chief Minister before the agreement was signed.

Mr. Selvaperunthagai said the TNCC and the Congress high command would announce the candidate for the Rajya Sabha seat. "We are happy and have a sense of fulfilment," he said. Mr. Chodankar said formal talks on seat-sharing for Puducherry would begin on Thursday.

The agreement confirmed the continuation of 22 years of alliance which began in 2004, though there was a brief hiatus before the 2014 Lok Sabha polls. This time, the Congress began the talks on a discordant note demanding more seats and a power-sharing arrangement. As discussions hit a roadblock, Mr. Chidambaram was asked to negotiate.

VALUES OVER STAR POWER
» PAGE 8

History-chasing India, England on collision course at iconic Wankhede

There hasn't been one standout performer, but Suryakumar & Co. have been able to eke out contributions from different personnel at key moments; Brook's men have had a grand campaign after an early loss to West Indies and the shift back from slightly tricky tracks in Sri Lanka to a potentially excellent one for batting isn't the most demanding

R. Kaushik
MUMBAI

EMMANUAL YOGINI

It's a stadium steeped in tradition, but it hasn't shied away from sprucing itself up without disassociating itself from the past. The Wankhede Stadium has changed character in the 51 years of its existence, but it hasn't lost any of its character.

Almost immediately after entering the premises through the Vinoo Mankad Gate, one is greeted by a statue of the original don of Indian batting, Sunil Gavaskar, his bat raised, captured mid-stride, a tribute to how the great man brought up his 10,000th Test run, against Pakistan in Ahmedabad in March 1987, with a dab past short third-man off off-spinner Ijaz Fakih.

The long walk from the gate to the press box takes one through a plethora of stalls in the process of being set up and which will be bustling with greater activity on match evening. To the right of the press box, just past the stand named after him, is a towering statue of Sachin Tendulkar essaying an aerial straight drive. Tendulkar was Gavaskar's successor in every sense of the term; to have the statues of two of the greatest batters of all time is credit to the authorities here, who have also honoured other stalwarts by naming gates and stands after them.

One of the newer additions to the sprawling premises is the MCA Sharad Pawar Cricket Museum, curated by Devendra Prabhudesai and named after the former union minister who served as the president of the Mumbai Cricket Association and the Board of Control for Cricket in India, as well as headed the International Cricket Council. The museum is a veritable celebration of the rich history of Mumbai cricket, of its contribution to Indian cricket, and of its pre-eminent position as the leader of the pack when it comes to the sport in the country. There is a spectacular collection of memorabilia dating back to more than 80 years. The stirring deeds while representing the country of the greats of the game, men and women, are documented as meticulously as domestic giants who have played significant parts in Bombay/Mumbai winning the Ranji Trophy a staggering 42 times.

It's impossible not to feel the tug of cricket anywhere around the Wankhede, which has a unique touch to it. It's here that India created history on 2 April 2011 by becoming the first home side to go all the way in the ODI World Cup; it's also here that their challenge fell flat in the semifinal of the 2016 T20 World Cup, when they were well beaten by eventually champions West Indies.

Familiar opponent

The Wankhede offers India the unique opportunity of becoming the first side to replicate its 50-over heroics by lifting the T20 World Cup. Thursday isn't a final *per se*, but it could so easily be the final before the final. Standing between them and a Sunday date in Ahmedabad are Harry Brook's England, India's semifinal opponents for the third straight edition.

The teams have split their two previous last-four clashes, both remarkably one-sided affairs. Then skipper Jos Buttler and Alex Hales consigned India to a crushing ten-wicket hammering in Adelaide in November 2022 with a massive unbroken 170-run alliance, while India paid them back in the same coin in Providence in June 2024 when Rohit Sharma masterminded a 68-run rout with a sparkling 57. So much has changed in the 21 months since India backed up that victory with a seven-run heist against South Africa in the final. Alongside Virat Kohli and Ravindra Jadeja, Rohit rode into the T02I sunset within hours of holding aloft the trophy in Bridgetown; India have a new captain in Suryakumar Yadav, a somewhat left-field choice given that Hardik Pandya was Rohit's deputy during the American adventure. They also boast several survivors from their victorious previous campaign, but there is a string of exciting newbies, among them Abhishek Sharma and Ishan Kishan, the tyros that occupy two of the top three positions in the batting order, and wrist-spinner Varun Chakaravarthy, currently the No. 1 T20I bowler in the universe.

Kishan has had his moments in this tournament, most notably against Namibia and Pakistan in the league phase, but has gone off the boil somewhat from the time he was dismissed in the first over in Ahmedabad by South African captain Aiden Markram in India's first Super Eight encounter. Even three months back, Kishan wasn't a serious threat to figure in the World Cup 15 but a change in mindset which ushered Shubman Gill out of the running coupled with the little Jharkhandi's spectacular form in domestic cricket compelled a rethink that took him ahead of Sanju Samson in the wicketkeeper-batter pecking order. Like most others in the Indian set-up, Kishan knows the Wankhede like the back of his hand, having plied his wares for Mumbai Indians in the IPL for several years before moving to Sunrisers Hyderabad for IPL 2025. Familiarity with a venue where one has had success previously certainly helps, and that's what Abhishek too will be hoping, because it was here that, in January last year, he blasted the living daylights out of England.

In a magnificent display of ball-bashing, the left-hander pulverised the bowling with seven fours and 13 gigantic sixes on his way to a 54-ball 135. England were lifted by the second-over dismissal of Sanju Samson with only 21 on the board, but ended up leaking 247, thanks mainly to Abhishek's effervescence. Jofra Archer, who has had a good tournament, went for 55 in his four overs and Adil Rashid 41 in three. Abhishek could do with some inspiration. He has had a poor tournament by anyone's standards, and hasn't looked like the No. 1 T20I batter that the rankings attest he is. Having taken four innings to make his first World Cup runs, his only contribution of note was 55 against Zimbabwe in Chennai. Maybe a return to the scene where he played his most bruising international innings is just the tonic he needs.

India were forced to split their left-left opening combine of Abhishek and Kishan after three straight first-over dismissals to off-spin. Kishan's wicketkeeping-opening slot has gone to Samson, who mainly came into the mix because his right-handedness offered a marked point of difference, but he proved that there is more to him than just that with a match-turning unbeaten 97 against West Indies in the virtual quarterfinal in Kolkata in Sunday. Samson has flattered to deceive in the past but the general feeling that he could have turned the corner after the Eden epic is strong. One of Samson's biggest enemies hitherto was self-doubt, which threatened to consume him. Now that he knows what he can do at the international level - and we say this with all respect, even though he has three T20I tons to go with an ODI century in his last appearance for the country, in December 2023 - he will perhaps divorce himself from the gremlins that have eaten away at him for so many years now and become the sustained destroyer that he has shown himself to be with Rajasthan Royals in the IPL. One of the keys to India making it to the semifinals without really approaching their best is numerous different players coming to the party. There hasn't been one standout performer, but India have been able to eke out contributions from different personnel at key moments, be it a half-century here, a two-wicket over there, or even two fours in four deliveries, like Shivam Dube conjured in the penultimate over of the tense chase against the Caribbeans. Maybe there is nothing like the perfect game - though India did have the near-perfect batting display in Chennai against Zimbabwe when each of their six batters weighed in handsomely in an intimidating total of 256 for four. But if there is, India still haven't produced it. Maybe that's something to look forward to, because what this side is capable of when it hits top gear is little short of awe-inspiring.

Buttler's struggles

England have had a grand campaign after an early loss to West Indies. Their spin attack manned by Rashid, Liam Dawson and Will Jacks has relished the assistance pitches in Pallekele and Colombo offered them during the Super Eights, when they had the measure of New Zealand, Sri Lanka and Pakistan. The shift back from slightly tricky tracks to a potentially excellent one for batting isn't the most demanding - certainly not half as much as going in the other direction - and it is on this that England will bank for Buttler to get back among the runs.

An acknowledged destroyer of the best bowling attacks, Buttler has been well off pace in a tournament where he has made a mere 62 runs in seven innings, with a highest of 26. If England haven't so much as contemplated leaving him out, it is because of his proven class. India will be hoping the sleeping giant doesn't wake up on Thursday, because if Buttler gets going, he will be well nigh impossible to stop.

Like India, England have won the World Cup twice, under Paul Collingwood in the Caribbean in 2010 and when Buttler masterminded their campaign in Australia a dozen years later. Brook has run a tight ship, maintaining his composure and showing none of the off-field indiscretions that marked the beginning of his captaincy career. England came into the World Cup under a cloud following their 1-4 hammering in the Ashes, which cast a shadow over the coaching career of Brendon McCullum. They have earned themselves plenty of breathing room and if they are able to put it past the hosts and move into the title round, it will mark a tremendous revival, no matter how the final pans out.

Having taken the scenic route to the semis, India are within two wins of rewriting history by becoming the first three-time champions of the shortest World Cup. They will have the luxury of an entire nation rooting for them, but unless they execute their skills to perfection, all that support and backing will have little impact. For that, it is imperative that they pull up their catching and fielding socks, which have been in tatters for a while.

Maybe, they will derive inspiration from the stunning Tendulkar statue that is impossible to miss, and from the rich history of a ground where the great man made his final international appearance in November 2013.

THE GIST

- The Wankhede offers India the unique opportunity of becoming the first side to replicate its 50-over heroics by lifting the T20 World Cup. Thursday isn't a final *per se*, but it could so easily be the final before the final
- One of the keys to India making it to the semifinals without really approaching their best is numerous different players coming to the party
- England came into the World Cup under a cloud following their 1-4 hammering in the Ashes, which cast a shadow over the coaching career of Brendon McCullum. They have earned themselves plenty of breathing room

Trade bodies flag impact of crisis on trade-driven State

Many Kannadigas have their business set-ups in Jebel Ali or other trade-free zones in West Asia; closure of airspace over Iran, Israel, and Gulf nations, has delayed shipments from Karnataka

WEST ASIA CONFLICT

Mini Tejaswi
BENGALURU

Karnataka's electronics, textiles, automotive components, petro-linked industries, MSMEs, and other segments may experience margin pressures, higher input and logistics costs, crunch in working capital, and huge shipment delays, all on account of the present geopolitical situation in West Asia, said Uma Reddy, president, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI).

Sharing the highlights of FKCCI's latest assessment of the emerging tension in West Asia and its likely impact on Karnataka's economy, she said, for a trade-driven State like Karnataka, the immediate concerns were rising energy costs, increased freight and insurance premiums, and uncertainty in export markets, particularly in the Gulf region.

The ongoing conflict involving Iran has already led to volatility in global crude oil prices and disruptions in key maritime trade routes and these would have multiple repercussions on the trade and business from the State, she added.

According to Ms. Reddy, FKCCI is engaging with government authorities to ensure that industry concerns, particularly those of MSMEs, are addressed proactively. "With prudent policy support and strategic adaptation, Karnataka's resilient industrial ecosystem can navigate this phase effectively as we did during Covid and in the recent U.S. tariff situation," she added.

> With prudent policy support and strategic adaptation, Karnataka's resilient industrial ecosystem can navigate this phase effectively
>
> **UMA REDDY,** President, Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry

Cascading effect

B.R Ganesh Rao, president, Karnataka Small Scale Industries Association (KASSIA), said that the West Asia crisis has raised serious concerns for trade, industry, financial markets, and service sectors in Karnataka, particularly for Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). "While direct trade exposure may be moderate, the cascading indirect effects could significantly impact the State's economy," he opined.

According to him, nearly 20% of India's foreign trade moves through sensitive West Asian sea lanes, especially the Strait of Hormuz. Any further changes may result in shipping delays and container shortages, increased freight and marine insurance premiums, he cautioned.

The sharp escalation of military action in the region was already sending shockwaves through global logistics networks, disrupting both air and ocean freight operations within the region and beyond, stated K. Ravi, senior vice-president, BCIC and chairman, International Business Committee.

Perishable exports

The closure of airspace over Iran, Israel, and Gulf nations, has stalled flights and delayed shipments from Karnataka, severely hitting perishable exports like vegetables, eggs, milk products, and organic ghee to West Asian markets.

Although the State's exposure to Iran remained limited due to U.S. sanctions, agricultural and pharmaceutical products still accounted for a sizeable share, Mr. Ravi said.

Karnataka's direct trade exposure to Iran is low compared to India's overall $1.25 billion exports and $1.06 billion imports in 2024, with no state-specific volume data publicly detailed, as per BCIC data.

Anything that happens to West Asia certainly affects Karnataka and India directly or indirectly, as these regions are the first point of connection for business and leisure travellers who are going to Europe or America, observed Ullas Kamath, a city entrepreneur and former chairman of FICCI, Karnataka State Council.

Transit hub

Mr. Kamath said many Kannadigas have their set-ups in Jebel Ali or in other trade-free zones in West Asia. So, if someone was importing from anywhere in the world or exporting to any geography, this region remained the best transit hub.

The region offered ease of doing business for Indians, provided convenience of raising the capital/loan or foreign exchanges. "We always say if you are in West Asia, you have the best of the West and the best of the East, but today, things are uncertain. My friends in Dubai or Abu Dhabi are scared as they see the kind of conflicts increasing. It affects the sentiments and overall mood of investors, brings down business morale, triggers negativity and fear," Mr. Kamath said.

360 stranded passengers arrive from Dubai; 34 flights cancelled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Cancellation continued for the fifth consecutive day on Wednesday. FILE PHOTO

An Emirates flight with 360 passengers arrived at the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Wednesday.

Flight EK566 departed Dubai at 1.47 p.m. and arrived in Bengaluru at 6.25 p.m. and another flight EK567 departed for Dubai from KIA at 8.32 p.m.

EK567 is the second flight to the West Asia region following the closure of the evolving airspace situation in the region.

Cancellation continued for the fifth consecutive day on Wednesday as 34 flights were cancelled due to airspace restriction.

"Eighteen arrivals and 16 departures were cancelled due to airspace restriction on March 4 2026 until 11.59 p.m. at the KIA. The key sectors to which the flights were cancelled are Abu Dhabi, Riyadh, Jeddah, Dammam, Dubai and Doha," the airport said.

From Page One

'Toxic' release postponed

A poster of film '*Toxic: A Fairly Tale for Grown-Ups*'

"The producers have been closely monitoring the rapidly evolving regional developments with the utmost caution."

This announcement comes at a time when the makers were gearing up for a trailer launch of the movie on March 8, in Bengaluru.

KVN Productions and Monster Mind Creations said in a joint statement, "After years of dedicated labour, we were excited to share our film with you all on the 19th of March. However, the current uncertainty, especially in the Middle East, has created a situation that impacts our goal to reach and connect with the widest possible audience. Therefore, in the interest of our partners and our audience, we have made the difficult but carefully considered decision to reschedule our release."

Toxic stars Yash, Nayanthara, Kiara Advani, Huma Qureshi, Rukmini Vasanth, and Tara Sutaria in pivotal roles.

Written by Yash and directed by Geetu Mohandas, the film has been shot simultaneously in Kannada and English, with dubbed versions in Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, and Malayalam – reinforcing its global ambition. With the postponement of *Toxic*, *Dhurandhar 2*, the much-hyped sequel of the 2025 blockbuster, will have no big opponent at the box office on March 19, 2026.

Prisoners can be given home-cooked food only on medical advice: HC

Meanwhile, the High Court has reserved the liberty to the accused to seek home-cooked food provided it was advised for medical reasons in terms of the prison rules, bearing in mind the warning issued by the apex court against giving special or five-star treatment to Darshan and other accused in the jail.

As advocate for Pavithra had questioned the quality of food provided in the prison by pointing out that prison authorities are spending only ₹85 per day to provide four meals per inmate, the court said that this argument raises legitimate questions about nutritional sufficiency in the food provided to the inmates. While observing that "the protection of human dignity does not cease at the gates of the prison and the prisoners, though deprived of liberty, are entitled to basic necessities in accordance with the law", the court, to safeguard the rights of the prisoners and to ensure transparency, directed the digital publication of the prison menu at conspicuous places.

The court directed the prison authorities to establish a complaint mechanism, if not in place already, enabling prisoners to report deficiencies in food quality, while ordering that the medical officer or a designated dietitian should conduct periodic inspection of food prepared for the inmates intermittently and record their certification with regard to its quality.

Eight more stranded persons from State seek help to return

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Eight more persons from Dakshina Kannada district in Karnataka have sought help to return to Mangaluru from Qatar and the UAE, where they are stranded amid the Israel-U.S.-Iran war raging in West Asia.

According to information made available by the State Disaster Management Authority, 35-year-old K. Ajith from Belthangady has sought help for returning with his 30-year-old wife G. Nikhita and their three-year-old daughter A. Anika.

Mr. Ajith went to Qatar on a work visa while his wife and daughter accompanied him on a family visa. They are all safe in Mushreb.

Shailesh Kumar from Bengaluru has sought help for the return of his sister Nisharani, 37, and her husband Ashwin Kumar, 38, who hails from Mangaluru. Ashwin went to the UAE on an employee visa while his wife accompanied him on a family visa. Both are safe in Abu Dhabi.

Nagaraj Shet from Mangaluru has sought help for the return of his daughter Dimple Shet, 28, son-in-law Chetan Vernekar, 29 and their two-year-old daughter Reyan. All the three went to the UAE on a tourist visa, and they are in Dubai.

In all, a total of 17 persons from Dakhina Kannada district have sought help of the Karnataka government to return from UAE, Qatar, and Saudi Arabia.

Eight persons from two families, who were expected to board a flight from Dubai to Mangaluru on Wednesday, could not do so in the light of cancellation of flights.

Flights cancelled

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

On Wednesday, flights – both arrivals and departures – between Mangaluru and Kuwait, Dubai and Abu Dhabi in the UAE, Dammam, and Jeddah in Saudi Arabia were cancelled, according to the airport authorities.

Panel backs move to grant second official language status to Tulu

Press Trust of India
MANGALURU

A high-level committee constituted by the State government to study the framework adopted by Andhra Pradesh for recognising Urdu as a second official language has submitted its report, backing the State's move to accord similar status to Tulu.

The six-member panel, headed by K.M. Gayatri, former Director of the Kannada and Culture Department, examined the procedures followed by the Andhra Pradesh government before granting second official language status to Urdu, officials said on Wednesday.

The committee undertook a field visit to the Andhra Pradesh Secretariat on January 19 and 20 and held consultations with senior officials to understand the legal provisions, administrative mechanisms, and implementation benchmarks involved, they said.

The panel also included Tharanatha Gatti Kapikad, president of the Karnataka Tulu Sahitya Academy, in an advisory capacity.

The report, along with a detailed note outlining Tulu's historical, linguistic, and cultural significance, was submitted to J. Manjunath, Secretary, Kannada and Culture Department, at Vikas Soudha here.

According to official sources, the study was aimed at gathering inputs to help Karnataka frame criteria and procedural guidelines if it decides to grant second official language status to Tulu.

Senior officials present at the submission included B.S. Manjunath Swami, Director of the Kannada and Culture Department; representatives of the Law Department and the Personnel and Administrative Reforms Department; and office-bearers of various State academies.

Tulu is predominantly spoken in the coastal districts of Dakshina Kannada and Udupi, and in parts of Kasaragod in neighbouring Kerala.

The demand to accord it second official language status in Karnataka has been raised by cultural organisations for several years.

Text & Context and Science

Weekday features on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carry explainers, special articles and quizzes. In the latest issue (March 5, Thursday), the following articles are available:

- What sparked the DoD-Anthropic clash? **newsth.live/anthropicclash**
- Chronic traffic noise exposes kinks in India's urban regulations **newsth.live/trafficnoise**

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access these articles. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access an article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

EDUCATION HUB — A Business Initiative

BMS College of Commerce and Management in association with BMS Evening College and BMS Academy hosted Samskruthi 2026 - Inter-Collegiate Fest

Samskruthi-2026, the intercollegiate management and cultural fest hosted by BMS College of Commerce and Management in association with BMS Evening College and BMS Academy, commenced on February 27, 2026, with a grand inauguration. The two-day event was formally launched by actor Kichcha Sudeepa, in the presence of Dr. B. S. Ragini Narayan and Chairman Sri. Aviram Sharma. The ceremony featured an enthusiastic student gathering and an engaging interactive session with Sudeepa, who shared insights on leadership and success. The vibrant inauguration set an inspiring tone for the fest, celebrating talent, creativity, and youth excellence. The ceremony concluded on a resounding high note, setting an inspiring and energetic tone for the two-day fest and marking the beginning of a remarkable celebration of youth excellence.

The CHRIST University Kannada Sangha commemorates 50 Years of Sustained Cultural Engagement

Recently The CHRIST University Kannada Sangha commemorated its golden jubilee valedictory, reaffirming its five-decade commitment to Kannada language, literature, and public scholarship. Addressing the gathering, Sri Ramalinga Reddy highlighted the Sangha's sustained year-round literary engagement and consistent publishing efforts as significant contributions amid declining institutional support for regional language discourse. Purushottama Bilimale, Chairman of the Kannada Development Authority, noted the Sangha's continuity and public relevance at a time when many similar forums have become inactive, calling for stronger institutional backing for Kannada initiatives statewide. Speaking on behalf of the honourees, critic H. S. Raghavendrarao described the Sangha as a sustained literary movement that has extended Kannada beyond classrooms into public cultural life, inspired by luminaries such as Masti Venkatesha Iyengar, D. R. Bendre, and G. P. Rajaratnam. Presiding over the ceremony, Vice Chancellor Joseph C. C. underscored the Sangha's long-term institutional vision, citing recent initiatives including digitisation, contributions of over 5,000 Kannada Wikipedia articles, e-book conversions, and expanded digital outreach. Over five decades, the Sangha has evolved into a sustained institutional platform for Kannada literary activity through publications, competitions, lectures, and digital engagement–positioning the language firmly within both academic inquiry and public cultural discourse.

Narayana Schools Honours State Champions at the Grand Double Finale of 'Clubs Culmination' and 'Reading Carnival 2026'

Narayana Schools hosted the Grand Double Finale of Clubs Culmination and Reading Carnival 2026 at the EBISU Convention Center, Bengaluru, celebrating state champions from 32 Techno and Olympiad branches across Karnataka. The finalists were selected through a rigorous three-tier process–school, cluster, and state levels–from a pool of over 30,000 students. Chief Guest Phanindra Sama encouraged students to embrace problem-solving and innovation, sharing how his own entrepreneurial journey led to the creation of redBus. Author Rachna Chhabria joined as Chief Guest, inspiring young readers and writers. Dr. Sindhura Narayana Ponguru and Puneet Kothapa of Narayana Educational Institutions reaffirmed the institution's commitment to fostering innovation, creativity, and holistic development. With a network of over 950 institutions and a legacy spanning 47 years, Narayana Educational Institutions continues to empower more than 600,000 students annually through integrated academic and co-curricular excellence. To know more of Narayana Schools, visit at: https://www.narayanaschools.in/;

East Point Group of Institutions Hosts Strategic Industry-Academia Leadership Dialogue in Bengaluru

East Point Group of Institutions hosted EPILC 2026 - East Point Industry Leadership Conclave at Hotel Vivanta Whitefield, bringing together senior leaders from global enterprises to discuss "Shaping the Future Workforce." The central panel, "Building Sustainable Talent Pipelines: The Role of Institutions in a Changing Workforce," featured executives from Citi, Cisco, Snowflake, UST Global, and Microchip Technology Inc.. The conclave emphasized sustainable, ecosystem-driven industry-academia partnerships to strengthen future-ready talent pipelines.

Chronic traffic noise exposes kinks in India's urban regulations

Auditory stress doesn't stay at the ear; chronic noise activates the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, a hormone-signalling system that coordinates the body's response to stress and helps regulate immunity, mood, and sleep cycle; it also elevates cortisol, blood pressure, and cardiovascular strain

Rohan Singh
Harish C. Phuleria

Most urban monitoring relies on fixed-location decibel readings at select junctions or only in specific time windows. ALEXEI ZAITCEV/UNSPLASH

In India, urban noise is relentless yet it is largely under-recognised as a public health concern. The average Indian urban traffic reportedly routinely reaches 80-100 dB, exceeding the World Health Organization's recommended 70 dB limit, creating a recognised risk of hearing loss.

Noise-induced hearing loss (NIHL) has long been viewed as an occupational disease of factories and mines. Scientific evidence challenges this assumption. Chronic exposure to environmental noise, particularly road traffic, can cause clinically measurable damage even in the absence of industrial hazards.

Physiological impact

Scientific evidence suggests what cities dismiss as background noise may in fact be producing measurable biological injury.

CSIR-National Environmental Engineering Research Institute senior technical officer Satish K. Lokhande said NIHL typically first appears around 4 kHz. In a 2022 study on firecracker noise, Dr. Lokhande documented how repeated exposure to intense sound peaks, often exceeding 85 dB, "accumulates auditory stress", initially causing a temporary threshold shift that becomes permanent with sustained exposure.

In another 2023 study of road tunnels that he co-authored, Dr. Lokhande found sound levels between 78.9 and 86.5 dB(A) with peak energy again concentrated at 4 kHz. Urban road traffic contributes a continuous, moderately elevated noise environment, often punctuated by horns and construction activity.

(dB(A) is short for A-weighted decibels, a sound level in decibels that has been adjusted to reflect how sensitive human hearing is at a certain frequency.)

This auditory stress doesn't stay confined to the ear. Chronic noise activates the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, an important hormone-signalling system that coordinates the body's response to stress and helps regulate energy use, immunity, mood, and sleep-wake timing. It elevates cortisol, blood pressure, and cardiovascular strain. Night-time traffic noise also fragments sleep, disrupting deep and REM stages, and impairing cognition.

While Indian biomarker data remain limited, international studies have also linked long-term environmental noise exposure to cardiovascular and metabolic risk.

Health accounting

India's legal framework recognises noise as an environmental pollutant under the Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules 2000. The Rules prescribe permissible limits for residential, commercial, and silence zones. Monitoring is episodic, concentrated around festivals or public complaints and rarely linked to health outcomes.

A 2024 study in *Nature Scientific Reports*, led by Markandeya, formerly of the department of Civil Engineering at IIT-BHU Varanasi, examined long-term traffic noise exposure among professional drivers. It revealed a clear dose-response relationship between cumulative noise exposure and changes in the hearing threshold, especially in frequencies critical for speech.

Most urban monitoring relies on fixed-location decibel readings at select junctions or in specific time windows. Such snapshot measurements capture momentary intensity but don't account for the length of exposure or cumulative auditory burden.

Dr. Markandeya explained that permissible exposure duration decreases logarithmically as decibel levels rise. "At 121 dB(A), exposure may be considered safe for one hour over a lifetime, whereas at 133 dB(A), the same duration would be unsafe." he says, noting that CNE functions not as a snapshot but as a lifetime audit of auditory burden.

Thus, he added, cumulative noise exposure can bridge this 'gap' because it integrates intensity and duration, and more closely reflects real-world auditory risk.

However, India's National Ambient Noise Monitoring Network isn't designed to capture cumulative exposure in urban environments.

Delhi Technological University professor of environmental engineering Rajeev Kumar Mishra also said, "Averages like Leq and Ldn ignore impulsive peaks from honking – which increase auditory strain."

Leq is the constant sound level that would deliver the same total acoustic energy as the real, time-varying sound over a specified period, e.g. 1 hour, 8 hours, etc. Ldn is the 24-hour Leq-like metric but it also penalises noises between 10 pm and 7 am more to reflect greater sleep disturbance. Both levels are measured in dB(A).

Chronic exposure to environmental noise, particularly road traffic, can cause clinically measurable damage even in the absence of industrial hazards. Scientific evidence suggests what cities dismiss as background noise may in fact be producing measurable biological injury

"Indian planning underestimates the hearing burden," Dr. Mishra added. Thus honking rules are unimplemented and there are no real quiet zones, leaving the damage to spread unchecked.

NIHL often remains invisible within healthcare. Doctors attribute hearing loss to ageing, habits or individual susceptibility rather than environmental exposure. High-risk groups, including drivers, traffic police, roadside vendors, also remain underdiagnosed without systematic screening.

Lucknow's Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences ENT specialist Amit Kesari said that among high-risk groups, traffic police are most vulnerable due to long hours at busy intersections in open areas. Early-stage loss may appear as a 4 kHz dip in audiometry and specialised tests such as DPOAE can detect early changes. He also suggested screening these groups with audiometry every five years to quantify actual loss.

At present, linking hearing loss specifically to traffic noise remains challenging due to clinical and awareness-related reasons. The classic 4 kHz dip associated with NIHL has been more consistently documented in occupational settings than in diffuse environmental exposure, and patients rarely attribute hearing loss to traffic noise. "Traffic noise is more immediately associated with stress, anxiety, and blood pressure," Dr. Kesari said.

Evidence-based action

In May 2023, 231 traffic personnel underwent hearing screening at Ahmedabad's Police Stadium, conducted by Satyen Engineer, CEO of independent research outfit Yhonk India and "hearing care company" WeHear. They found the mean hearing thresholds of the left and right ears to be 44.4 dB and 42 dB, respectively, placing 60.6% and 54.5% of personnel above 40 dB. While the findings weren't peer-reviewed, they offered field-level evidence demonstrating occupational hearing risk among the country's traffic police, and raised troubling questions. "Until we have systematic data from drivers, traffic police, and other high-exposure groups, we are only estimating the scale of the problem," Dr. Kesari said.

Adamas University, Kolkata, civil engineer Argha Kamal Guha suggested that cities consider introducing low noise emission zones in places where frequent honking is known to elevate exposure levels. Such a measure, he said, could include rerouting traffic and restricting the noisiest vehicle categories, especially if the hotspots are near hospitals, residential neighborhoods, and educational institutions.

In the final analysis, integrating environmental noise metrics with routine hearing assessments, Dr. Kesari suggested, would allow earlier detection and more accurate estimation of risk. As he put it: "We have the evidence. What we lack is the mechanism to act on it."

(Rohan Singh [Rohanthakur780@gmail.com] is an independent science journalist based in Lucknow. Harish C. Phuleria is associate professor, IIT-Bombay [phuleria@iitb.ac.in].)

A fisherman catches halibut at Disko Bay near Ilulissat, Greenland, on January 28. AP

'It's too warm': Greenland's fishermen feel climate heat

Associated Press

Fisherman Helgi Áargil no longer knows what to expect on Greenland's fjords, where he spends up to five days at a time on his boat with his dog, Molly, and the ever-changing northern lights in the sky as company.

Last year, his boat got stuck in ice that broke off the nearby glacier. This year, it's been very wet instead. His income is just as unpredictable. An outing could bring him around 100,000 Danish kroner or nothing at all.

The Arctic's rapidly changing climate is bringing more questions for Greenland, the semi autonomous territory of Denmark that's been shaken by U.S. President Donald Trump's interest in owning it. While Mr. Trump's approach to Greenland has shifted, the world has been unable to slow the effects of climate change. The Arctic is warming faster than any other region in the world, driven by the burning of oil, gas and coal.

The Arctic is warming faster than any other region in the world, driven by the burning of oil, gas and coal

What that means for the fishing industry that largely drives Greenland's economy is unknown. Fishing accounts for up to 95% of exports, many to the territory's biggest market, China, along with the United States, Japan and Europe.

Mr. Áargil explained how he fishes for halibut and cod. Other top catches are shrimp and snow crab, which including legs, can reach more than a metre long. Traditional ice fishermen who make up half the local industry are seeing the most dramatic changes to the way they fish.

Fishing has shaped Greenland's communities. The harbour where fishermen return to sell their catch is at the heart of every town or village. Before heading out, some fishermen pick up boxes from the island's fishing companies to pack their catch which, in the capital of Nuuk, is winched from the boat to the fish factory.

Toke Binzer, the chief executive of the island's single biggest employer, Royal Greenland, said he is increasingly worried about a future with greatly diminished sea ice. That could push traditional fishermen towards larger communities and into the ranks of commercial fishing.

The challenge now is to support traditional fishermen when there is sometimes "too much ice to sail, too little to go out on", Mr. Binzer said. Already, that unpredictability has caused a "huge" problem. Royal Greenland already loans fishermen money to buy a boat, which they repay from selling their catch, Mr. Binzer said. If everyone turns to fishing from boats, that could help economically but lead to overfishing, said Boris Worm, an expert in marine biodiversity at Dalhousie University in Canada.

In Greenland, there are already signs of too much fishing close to shore as halibut are getting smaller, Mr. Binzer said. Mr. Worm agreed, calling it a classic sign of overfishing as the bigger fish are caught and the smaller, younger ones are left.

On his boat near Nuuk, Mr. Áargil considered another challenge: Warm weather is making some fish harder to catch as they go deeper in search of colder waters. "It's too warm," he said, looking at the hills around the fjord. "I don't know where the fish is going, but there's not so much."

Options beyond fishing remain few in Greenland. Tourism is increasing but far from making up a big part of the economy.

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The missions that brought Venus into view

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

Name the Soviet Union's 1975 mission that gave humankind its first view of the landscape of another world: Venus. The mission transmitted a single black and white panoramic image showing sharp rocks and a surprisingly clear horizon, debunking the idea that the atmosphere would be too thick to see through.

QUESTION 2

NASA's _____ orbiter used synthetic aperture radar to 'see' through the planet's thick clouds as well as to map 98% of its surface in incredible detail, revealing large volcanoes, 6,400-km-long channels of lava, and pancake-like domes that completely reshaped scientists' understanding of Venusian geology. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 3

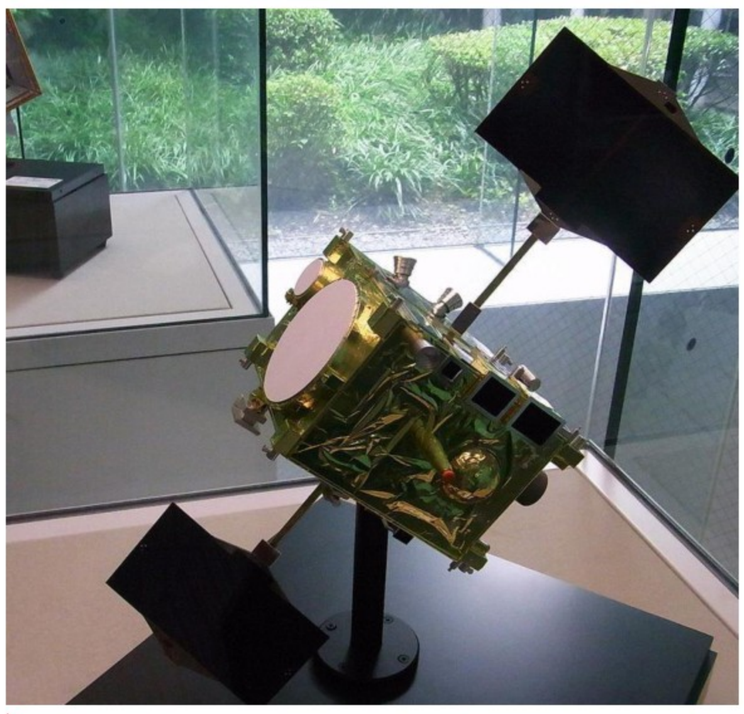
In 1985, two missions of the Soviet Union, dubbed ____ 1 and 2, deployed two helium balloons into the Venusian atmosphere. These were the first aerial vehicles to fly on another planet, drifting over 11,300 km through the middle cloud layer for some 46 hours, providing the first in-situ data of the planet's violent winds. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

In 2006, Europe's Venus Express mission discovered a large 'double-eyed' atmospheric vortex at the planet's south pole. This complex structure, which constantly changes shape, revealed insights into the planet's X, a phenomenon whereby the atmosphere spins 60x faster than Venus itself. Name X.

QUESTION 5

Both the answer to Q2 and the Venus Express used a technique called Y, whereby they dipped into Venus's upper atmosphere to slow down and change their orbits, saving them significant amounts of fuel and allowing them to collect data on the density and temperature of this part of the atmosphere. Name Y.



Visual: Name this Japanese orbiter that captured images of a 9,700-km-long stationary wave in Venus's upper atmosphere in 2015, revealing a link between the surface and high-altitude weather. WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Answers to March 3 quiz:
1. Expansion of BUN – **Ans: Blood urea nitrogen**
2. Blood type lacking all 61 antigens in Rh system – **Ans: Rh null**
3. Vitamin that in high doses suppresses troponin readings – **Ans: B7**
4. Statistical entity used to develop 'reference' ranges – **Ans: Bell curves**
5. Process that kicks in when a tourniquet is left on too long – **Ans: Haemoconcentration**
Visual: **Haemolysis**

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For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Projects proposed in 2025-26 Budget see significant progress; on-ground work lags

Biggest positive is progress in Bengaluru Business Corridor, earlier called the Peripheral Ring Road; it had been stuck for over 18 years

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government allocated funds or agreed to stand guarantor for raising loans for 13 urban development projects in the 2025-26 State Budget, including the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), North-South Tunnel Road project, and building new roads in the buffer zones of drains, all of which have made significant progress, though none have begun work on the ground.

The biggest positive has been the progress in the Bengaluru Business Corridor (BBC), earlier called the Peripheral Ring Road (PRR), which had been stuck for over 18 years; and the advertisement bylaws.

According to a Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) source, more than 600 people have agreed to part with their land for BBC-1, and compensation has been paid to more than 450 people. The civic body is set to float tenders for 23 km out of 73 km of BBC-1 by the end of March. The progress has come amidst a large number of farmers still fighting for 'fair compensation' for their land and moving court.

The BDA has maintained that five compensation structures, especially Transferable Development Rights (TDR), are beneficial to farmers. The civic authority is expecting more landowners to come forward after the Greater Bengaluru Authority's (GBA) digital TDR exchange platform goes live. Following these developments, Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister D.K. Shivakumar has announced that BBC-1 will be completed in the next year and a half.

According to a Bangalore Development Authority source, more than 600 people have agreed to part with their land for BBC-1, and compensation has been paid to more than 450 people. FILE PHOTO

Undertaking and current status

Project	Progress
Tunnel Road (North-South corridor)	Adani Group has emerged lowest bidder, documents verification in progress
Bengaluru Business Corridor-1	Land acquisition under way, tender for 23 km stretch by March-end
Buffer zones of drains	DPRs accepted, land acquisition in progress
17 elevated corridors	DPRs readied
Advertisement bylaws 2025	Notified, city corporations yet to float tenders

On the other hand, after five years of losing advertisement revenue, the now defunct BBMP finally came up with new ad bylaws modelled on Delhi laws. However, it failed to attract a single bidder. Eventually, the GBA made relaxations in the draft and notified new rules. This has now emerged as a steady source of revenue for the new corporations, but the problem of illegal hoardings persists.

Apart from this, the development of arterial and sub-arterial roads has seen on-ground progress, with nearly 160 km of white-topping under way and 400 km of black-topping works taken up, according to a GBA source.

B-SMILE takes off

B-SMILE, which was created to implement big infrastructure projects, has made progress on all the projects entrusted to it. As the State government stood as a guarantor for HUDCO loans for building the Tunnel Road, the SPV secured loan sanctions. Subsequently, tenders were floated, and the Adani Group emerged as the lowest bidder. The B-SMILE board is examining aspects related to qualification to proceed further.

In addition, the SPV prepared detailed project reports for the Outer Ring Road upgradation and 13 elevated corridors spanning 126 km, estimated to cost the government ₹18,000 crore – about ₹142 crore per km. While the ORR upgrade has received Cabinet approval, clearance is awaited for the elevated corridors.

Although the SPV initially struggled owing to a dearth of engineers during the BBMP-GBA transition, on-ground work for constructing new roads in the buffer zones of drains gathered pace, and the land acquisition process is now under way. The State government has earmarked ₹3,000 crore for the project. A B-SMILE source told *The Hindu* that these roads will add to the network beyond GBA limits as well.

Besides this, the State government had earmarked ₹2,000 crore for strengthening the stormwater drain network in Bengaluru. The World Bank has sanctioned ₹3,000 crore. Currently, the GBA is overseeing the project. Sources said that zonal drainage master plans are being prepared and IISc is assisting with a flood mitigation model.

The only work that took off well but has since lost momentum is the development of city lakes. The then BBMP allocated ₹50 crore for developing 24 lakes, and work had eventually begun. Some lakes, such as Kacharakanahalli, Doddabidarakallu Lake, and Gunjur Mouji Lake, saw progress, but since the GBA transition, the works have slowed.

Besides, lakes such as Varthur and Bellandur, which were being developed by the BDA, faced setbacks. Now, the East Corporation is planning to take over the development works at these lakes. Among other projects, the Cabinet recently approved the Cauvery VI stage, which got allocation last year.

Overall, while most projects that received allocations in the last Budget have made substantial progress, very few have seen full on-ground implementation. Elevated corridors, ORR upgrades, stormwater drain strengthening, and BBC are set to take off this year.

Techie ends life; dowry harassment angle being probed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 35-year-old former software professional allegedly ended her life following a domestic quarrel with her mother-in-law, at Abbigere in North Bengaluru, the police said on Tuesday. The deceased, identified as Sushma, 35, was working at a private IT company and had been married to Puneeth Kumar for five years. The couple has a four-year-old son.

According to the police, frequent arguments reportedly took place between Sushma and her mother-in-law, Kalpana, over household matters. They recently argued over cooking. The police said on Monday, at around 10.30 a.m., Sushma was found dead in her room upstairs. Her husband and mother-in-law were present in the house at the time. She was found unresponsive and later declared dead.

Following a complaint from Sushma's parents accusing her husband and in-laws of dowry harassment, the police have taken Mr. Kumar into custody for questioning.

A case has been registered at Soladevanahalli Police Station. Further investigation is under way to ascertain the exact circumstances leading to her death, including the allegations of harassment.

(Those in distress or having suicidal thoughts can seek help from Arogya Sahayavani Ph: 104)

Poor man's refrigerator

People purchasing earthen pots ahead of the summer season, in Vijayanagar in Bengaluru. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Activist flags frequent fires in Magadi taluk

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Frequent instances of fires around Jyothipalya village in Magadi taluk, Bengaluru South district, have been flagged by social activist Shabnam Hashmi.

Ms. Hashmi, who runs Ajji's Learning Centre, a non-profit education trust in the village, said that since February 24, there have been three instances of forest fire.

"Initially I thought the fire was an accident or someone might have lit the dry leaves. However, now it appears that these are not accidents but done deliberately," she stated.

She alleged that a mining lobby could be behind the events, to clear the land. "I think that there is a concerted effort to start mining in this area. We have also been hearing blasts during night time," she added.

A forest fire raging at Jyothipalya.

Ms. Hashmi said that due to the fires and mining activities, wild animals are venturing out of the forest and entering villages.

"Jyothipalya village is covered on three sides with forests. There have been instances of goats disappearing. My nephew recently lost two dogs, probably hunted by leopards," she claimed.

She said that after the second fire incident on February 26, she highlighted the issue on social media along with pictures and brought it to the notice of the Chief Minister, Environment Minister, and Bengaluru South District Deputy Commissioner, by tagging their official handles on X.

"However, there has been no response from anybody. This is clearly a deliberate act by a vested lobby to clear land and destroy animal habitats; there is a need for urgent intervention," she said.

Meanwhile, Ramakrishnappa M., Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bengaluru South district, said that there is no forest land in Jyothipalya village and that the reported fire instances could have occurred on gomala (grazing) land.

Academics urge APU to seek closure of FIR against students, say criminal law should be last resort

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A group of academics and members of civil society have written an open letter to the leadership of Azim Premji University (APU), raising concerns regarding a police complaint that resulted in an FIR against a student-run reading group – Spark Reading Circle. The incident occurred on February 24, after activists of the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP) trespassed into and vandalised the property against a discussion scheduled on the campus.

Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad activists trespassed into and vandalised the property against a discussion scheduled on the Azim Premji University campus, on February 24. ANI

In their letter, the signatories, including those representing the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, Delhi University, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), Harvard University, among other organisations and institutions, say they have long valued the university for standing by constitutional values, encouraging critical thinking, and engaging ethically with public issues. It is because of the reputation, they say, that they are troubled by the decision to initiate criminal proceedings against the student-run group in the aftermath of the incident. The letter referred to publicly available accounts, which state that the immediate and serious wrongdoing during the incident was the vandalism and assault by the ABVP activists.

The signatories described the violence on the campus as an attack on the university's safety. They argue that issues such as event permissions, procedural lapses, or internal disagreements are handled within a university through its rules and disciplinary systems. Turning such matters into criminal cases, they say, risks treating debate as crime and brings police action into academic spaces. Calling "criminal law a measure that should be used only as a last resort", the letter argued that it should not be used to control student expression, manage concerns about the university's image, or respond to disruption by outside political groups.

The signatories say that filing an FIR in a matter related to campus governance exposes students to the criminal justice system and could harm the atmosphere of intellectual freedom necessary for academic life. "As long as the criminal case remains open, they added, students remain under the threat of possible prosecution and may create uncertainty that affects free discussion and academic work," the letter said.

'Take immediate steps'

The groups have requested the university to take immediate steps to ensure that no student faces criminal consequences for academic discussions conducted within constitutional limits. They further asked the administration to publicly state that student expression within the law shall not be criminalised, to use available legal and institutional options to seek closure of the FIR against the Spark Reading Circle at the earliest and rely on internal, non-criminal mechanisms to address the issue.

Mechanic killed by nephew

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 52-year-old mechanic's death, initially suspected to be a natural death, has turned into a murder after the Viveknagar police uncovered evidence of assault linked to a dispute over vacating a rented house.

The deceased, Inayath Pasha, was living alone on the ground floor of a building in Austin Town which belongs to his sister.

On Sunday, around 6.45 p.m., his son Syed Mohammed Ali visited the house and found him lying motionless on a cot. Earlier, at about 4.45 p.m., Pasha's sister and her son had reportedly gone to serve him food and noticed him lying inside the house. When they tried to wake him, he did not respond.

The police registered an Unnatural Death Report and began inquiry proceedings.

However, during the investigation, suspicions arose.

Following a detailed inquiry and a fresh complaint by a relative, the police converted the case into a murder investigation.

Confession

The accused, identified as Masoor Ahmed, 22, a private firm employee and the deceased's nephew, was taken in for questioning. He allegedly confessed that he had repeatedly asked Pasha to vacate the rented house.

On Sunday, he again went to the tenant's house and asked him to vacate. An argument ensued after Pasha allegedly refused and abused him.

The police said Ahmed punched Pasha on the face, eyes, chest and ribs, resulting in his death on the spot. He then allegedly attempted to portray the incident as a natural death.

The accused has been arrested.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, MAR. 05	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 20:07	SET 07:35
FRIDAY, MAR. 06	
RISE 06:33	SET 18:29
RISE 20:56	SET 08:12
SATURDAY, MAR. 07	
RISE 06:32	SET 18:29
RISE 21:45	SET 08:49

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	30	20
Mysuru	33	21
Bengaluru	32	20

Bengaluru Today
32°C The weather will be dry. Day will be little warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool.

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THE HINDU
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Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath Chandrasekar (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Venezuela's oil exports in February amid shifts in trade patterns

737,000 It fell to around 737,000 barrels per day in February, a 6.5 % decline from January, as shipments to the U.S. and Europe could not fully offset a sharp drop in exports to China. REUTERS

U.S. targets hit inside Iran since the start of strikes

2,000 The U.S. military said it has struck nearly 2,000 targets inside Iran since launching attacks alongside Israel, focusing on ballistic missiles and other military infrastructure. AFP

Flights cancelled in West Asia between Feb. 29 and March 2

12,903 According to aviation data analysis firm Cirium, 40% of planned departures were cancelled between Saturday and Monday following the eruption of conflict in West Asia. AFP

Jobs provided in Andhra Pradesh in 21 months

6.28 In lakh. CM N. Chandrababu Naidu said that 6.28 lakh people have been provided employment across the private and public sectors. The government aims to exceed its target of generating 20 lakh jobs, he added. PTI

Estimated weekly damage to the Israeli economy from war

2.93 in $ billion. Damage to Israel's economy from the air war with Iran could reach more than nine billion shekels ($2.93 billion) a week, the Finance Ministry said on Wednesday. REUTERS

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

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What sparked the DoD-Anthropic clash?

Why did the DoD label Anthropic a supply chain risk? Did protections against surveillance and autonomous weapons trigger the fallout? Why did Anthropic refuse unrestricted access? Why was OpenAI able to negotiate terms that Anthropic rejected?

EXPLAINER

Aroon Deep

The story so far:
The U.S. Department of Defence (styled as the Department of War under the second Donald Trump administration) has entered into a public spat with the AI firm Anthropic, which makes the Claude AI product. The DoD has threatened to designate Anthropic a "supply chain risk," dissuading a wide variety of firms that work with the U.S. government from patronising Anthropic's products. ChatGPT maker OpenAI subsequently entered into the picture, obtaining an agreement it said was not radically different from what Anthropic wanted.

What is Claude?
Claude is an AI chatbot that helps organisations and individual users create and modify code. Its Claude Code product has been received extraordinarily well due to its capabilities. Claude Code is among the few AI products that is run with extremely powerful large language models (LLMs) while also supporting on-device creation and editing of tools, once it has access to a range of software libraries to work with.

The product is very compelling to the defence establishment because it can iterate on high-tech weapons and defence systems. Recruitment of programmers for these systems tends to be slow, as any critical weapons system is protected by several layers of secrecy, necessitating security clearances that can be time-consuming.

Claude Code has been a compelling proposition for the DoD, as it likely allows

REUTERS

for iteration on programmes that drive its technology quickly. While it does not execute programming tasks perfectly all the time, it performs well enough that development timelines have been shrunk in organisations that have deployed it widely, especially among experienced software developers.

Why did Anthropic clash with the DoD?
Anthropic was onboarded to the DoD as a part of a $200 million contract last June, which allowed the U.S. government to use Claude's services from dedicated infrastructure hosted by Amazon Web Services.

The issues between the firm and the DoD started on January 9, when defence secretary Pete Hegseth published a memorandum entitled "Accelerating America's Military AI Dominance," in which he called for the elimination of "blockers to data sharing, Authorizations to Operate (ATOs), test and evaluation and certification, contracting, hiring and talent management, and other policies that inhibit rapid experimentation and fielding". Anthropic has a much-publicised "constitution" for Claude that discourages the model from supporting widespread surveillance and enabling fully autonomous weaponry. Dario Amodei, the firm's co-founder, insisted on strong language in the agreement between the DoD and Anthropic to bake in protections against domestic surveillance of U.S. residents and enable fully autonomous weaponry.

The firm was given until last Friday to relent and let the DoD have completely unrestricted access to its models. It refused, saying in a blog post that it would help the DoD transition to a new provider.

The DoD then classified Anthropic as a supply chain risk, a designation usually applied to firms that have such dodgy practices that their products can provide foreign adversaries a backdoor into critical systems. While this designation only disallows DoD suppliers and partners from using Claude on systems dedicated to DoD, there are concerns that executives may lean toward caution and completely remove ties with Claude.

What is OpenAI's agreement?
OpenAI negotiated an agreement with the DoD that the former claims has the same protections against surveillance and fully autonomous weaponry that Anthropic sought. It is not fully clear why OpenAI was able to land this deal while Anthropic was cast out. "The Department of War may use the AI System for all lawful purposes, consistent with applicable law, operational requirements, and well-established safety and oversight protocols," a portion of the agreement made public by OpenAI said.

"The AI System will not be used to independently direct autonomous weapons in any case where law, regulation, or Department policy requires human control, nor will it be used to assume other high-stakes decisions that require approval by a human decision maker under the same authorities." Anthropic is reported to have sought greater clarity in the agreement's legal language that would prohibit the use cases described above, even if they were legalised.

"We think our red lines are more enforceable here because deployment is limited to cloud-only (not at the edge), keeps our safety stack working in the way we think is best, and keeps cleared OpenAI personnel in the loop," OpenAI said in a statement. "We don't know why Anthropic could not reach this deal, and we hope that they and more labs will consider it."

THE GIST

- The DoD classified Anthropic as a supply chain risk after the firm refused to grant completely unrestricted access to its models, despite Claude Code being seen as a way to shrink development timelines and enable faster iteration on technology programmes.
- While the designation formally bars DoD suppliers from using Claude on systems dedicated to the DoD, there are concerns executives may lean toward caution and completely remove ties with the firm.

What will Nepal's landmark general election decide?

Why were the polls called two years ahead of schedule? Is a hung parliament inevitable?

Sanjeev Satgainya

The story so far:
Nepal will be voting in a landmark general election on Thursday, in what many see as a quest for political change. The polls follow last September's youth-led movement against corruption, misgovernance, and a patronage-driven economy long associated with an ageing political class.

Why is this election different?
The election is being held two years ahead of schedule because of the two-day Gen Z protests during which 77 people lost their lives, including 19 who were killed in police firing on the first day of demonstrations on September 8.

The vote is viewed as a corrective measure – an opportunity to break Nepal's cycle of revolving-door politics that has plagued the country for decades and to create conditions for implementing the demands of the youth movement. Those demands – accountability, clean governance and economic reform – resonate well beyond the youth protesters and across the broader population.

What will this election decide?
Voters will elect a new House of Representatives. Nepal's House of Representatives, or Pratinidhi Sabha, is the lower chamber of the federal parliament and has 275 members – 165 elected through the First-Past-The-Post (FPTP) system and 110 through Proportional Representation (PR).

Voters cast two ballots: one for an individual candidate under FPTP and another for a political party under PR.

Under FPTP, the candidate with the higher number of votes in each constituency wins. Under PR, seats are allocated to parties based on their nationwide vote share. Nepal's Election Commission uses the Sainte-Laguë method to distribute PR seats.

A party that secures at least 138 seats – a simple majority – can form a government on its own. If no party reaches that threshold, the single largest party is invited to form a government, typically through coalition-building.

What are the key political forces?
For much of the post-1990 democratic era, two parties have dominated Nepali politics – the Nepali Congress (NC) and the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) (CPN-UML). K.P. Sharma Oli of the UML was the Prime Minister, backed by the Nepali Congress, when the September protests took place.

In 2008, these establishment forces were disrupted by the rise of the Maoists, who entered electoral politics after ending a decade-long insurgency. Riding anti-incumbency sentiment and public demand for change, they emerged as a major force.

Following the recent protests, Pushpa Kamal Dahal of the Maoist Centre brought together around a dozen smaller communist factions to form the Nepali Communist Party. The new formation adheres to Marxism-Leninism and what it calls Scientific Socialism. However, many voters view it as part of the entrenched political establishment it once challenged.

A major new player is the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). Formed just six months before the 2022 elections, it has generated a groundswell reminiscent of the Maoists' rise nearly two decades ago.

As in 2008, anti-incumbency sentiment and calls for systemic change are shaping the political mood. The difference now is that the Maoists themselves are widely seen as part of the old guard. The RSP positions itself as a centrist liberal alternative to traditional parties.

The Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) advocates restoring the monarchy and reinstating Nepal as a Hindu state. Nepal abolished its monarchy in 2008 and formally became a federal democratic republic under the 2015 Constitution. The RPP's electoral performance has historically remained modest, but it cannot be entirely dismissed.

Another new entrant is the Ujyalo Nepal Party, founded in December by technocrat Kulman Ghising, who is widely credited with ending Nepal's prolonged electricity shortages. Ideologically, the party mirrors the Nepali Congress's democratic socialism but presents itself as technocratic and governance-focused.

When will the results be known?
Vote counting in Nepal is slow because of the complex ballot design and the large number of parties and candidates. As many as 67 parties and 3,405 candidates are contesting this election. Votes are counted manually. While FPTP results start to trickle in as counting in individual constituencies is completed, PR ballots must be tallied nationwide before final allocation. As a result, it may take up to a month for the final results to be declared.

What are the possible outcomes?
Nepal's mixed electoral system makes it difficult for any single party to secure a majority. Analysts expect a hung parliament and a return to the same old coalition cycle.

The RSP is experiencing a groundswell, but converting public enthusiasm into actual votes remains a challenge.

Because this election follows a youth-led movement, turnout among younger voters could prove decisive.

The RSP could also benefit from voter fatigue, as many may vote for it not necessarily in the hope of miraculous change, but with the intent of teaching the old parties a lesson.

(Sanjeev Satgainya is an independent journalist based in Kathmandu)

THE GIST

- The polls were called two years ahead of schedule after the youth-led movement against corruption, misgovernance and a patronage-driven economy.
- Analysts expect a hung parliament, as Nepal's mixed FPTP and Proportional Representation system makes it difficult for any single party to secure the simple majority of 138 seats.

Final clearance yet to come for RCB matches at Chinnaswamy

Karnataka State Cricket Association has to comply with 17 suggestions drafted by expert committee to get final clearance

Chetan B.C.
BENGALURU

Even as the Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) on Tuesday announced that they will play five league matches on their home ground, M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, sources in the committee overseeing the stadium's readiness told *The Hindu* that conducting the matches is still subject to their "clearance".

The source said that the Cabinet has given a conditional nod to allow the Indian Premier League (IPL) matches at the stadium. The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) is required to comply with 17 major suggestions drafted by the expert committee to get final clearance.

"Works to address the infrastructure woes are ongoing, and several of them, including the installation of gates and fixing issues related to the holding area, are still lagging behind. However, KSCA officials have promised to comply with the conditions and have sought extra time, till mid-March, to complete the works," the source added.

The State government had banned cricket matches at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium after 11 persons died in a stampede on June 4, 2025, during celebrations for RCB's maiden IPL victory. FILE PHOTO

According to documents accessed by *The Hindu*, the KSCA has so far fully complied with two conditions, while work is under way to address the remaining 15.

"Once all the works are completed, another inspection will be conducted to assess the readiness. Based on the extent of implementation, we will decide whether to allow matches or permit them with reduced spectator capacity," the officer noted.

As the committee is headed by M. Maheshwar Rao, Chief Commissioner, Greater Bengaluru Authority, and includes senior IPS and government officers, a separate sub-committee comprising junior officers has been formed to assess the on-ground works.

On Monday, the sub-committee reviewed the ongoing works. The report stated that all campus and stand entry gates must be renamed, renumbered, and standardised to avoid confusion among the public. As per the original timeline, this work is to be completed by Thursday. The KSCA has now requested additional time until March 10.

Further, the KSCA has been advised to install a mock-up signage system and a watchtower at one entry point and to prepare all remaining signboards for installation, with completion targeted by March 10. In addition, it was suggested that a six-metre driveway, capable of bearing the weight of 45,000 kg, be provided inside the stadium between the boundary line and the gallery stand. The KSCA has requested that this be implemented in Phase 2. The main committee will have to examine the request and grant permission. Several other conditions, such as demarcating the proposed locations for frisking points, turnstile gates, gangway routes, and queue managers using ropes, line powder, and peg rods, must be completed before the next inspection. Arrangements should also be made to demonstrate mock-ups in accordance with the originally proposed plan.

The KSCA has further been advised to ensure strict compliance with all general observations and recommendations issued by the expert committee. A final inspection will be conducted thereafter.

The State government had banned cricket matches at the stadium after 11 persons died in a stampede on June 4, 2025, during celebrations over RCB's maiden IPL victory.

'Perception of dept. shifting from police force to police service'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's 43rd State Police Chief M.A. Saleem on Wednesday said the perception of the department is steadily shifting from being a "police force" to a "police service", with a renewed focus on citizen-friendly policing.

Speaking after receiving honorary club membership during an interaction at the Bangalore Press Club, Mr. Saleem said the State police aim to provide seamless service to the public, beginning at the jurisdictional police station level. "Our goal is to ensure that the police are seen as a friend in need rather than merely an enforcement authority. In many countries, people call the police even before contacting friends or relatives during emergencies, because they know the police will be the first responders. We want to build that level of trust here," he stated.

Reiterating the department's reform-oriented vision, Mr. Saleem said the emphasis will remain on service delivery, transparency, technology-driven enforcement and public trust-building.

Addressing Bengaluru's traffic woes, Mr. Saleem noted that road congestion stems largely from inadequate public transport usage and limited road capacity for further expansion.

State Police Chief M.A. Saleem. SUDHAKARA JAIN

He pointed out that while public transport usage in Mumbai stands at about 82%, Bengaluru's usage is around 47%. "Increasing public transport capacity and encouraging its use, while reducing private vehicles on the road, is the way forward," he said.

He explained that unlike many other metro cities, Bengaluru has a radial road network, forcing vehicles to pass through the Central Business District (CBD) to travel from one end of the city to another. Additionally, high-speed expressways feeding traffic into the city often result in bottlenecks. "These issues are being addressed with technological interventions," he said, urging citizens to start at least 10 minutes early to reduce stress and road rage, and strictly follow traffic rules.

Mr. Saleem also said that every system has both good and bad elements. "Our effort is to identify and punish the bad so that the good are encouraged and supported," he explained.

Responding to concerns about vacancies, he said around 15% vacancies should not hinder functioning, as technology and surveillance systems have supplemented manpower. Automated, contactless enforcement through CCTV and traffic cameras generate an average of 35,000 to 40,000 challans daily. Existing gaps are also being managed with the deployment of home guards at station levels.

The State police have also formed a dedicated Anti-Narcotics Task Force comprising around 65 selected personnel. The unit will focus on targeting peddlers and suppliers, Mr. Saleem said. At the same time, under the 'Sanmitra' initiative, a designated officer at each police station will monitor and rehabilitate drug users.

Raid on hookah bar: 1 held

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The police raided an illegal hookah bar here on Tuesday, seizing hookah pots and various other materials. One person was arrested. The raid was carried out on a premises located ina building near Mathrumandali Circle in V.V. Puram police station limits. The arrested person has ben identified as Sanjay, 25, a resident of Paduvarahalli.The police seized hookah pots worth ₹50,000, and about 27 types of materials used in the preparation of the hookah.

Two persons, who were consuming hookah, were taken into custody.

The V.V. Puram police have registered cases under Section 125 and 3 (5) of the BNS, and Sections 4 (A) and 21 (A) of the COTPA.

'Inquiry needed into phone tapping'

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI

Pointing out the contradiction in the statement of Home Minister G. Parameshwara on telephone tapping, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has said that if phone tapping has occurred, it is a serious issue involving privacy and required a thorough inquiry.

Speaking to presspersons in Hubballi on Wednesday, Mr. Joshi questioned the Home Minister's remarks on phone tapping-.While the Home Minister has claimed there has been no phone tapping, he himself has revealed the State government is keeping a close tab on internal matters which raises serious concerns about privacy of individuals, he said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to notify General Public that, **Mrs.Geetha D/o.Late.Sri.Manya Nayak, W/o.Late.Krishna Reddy,** Aged about 55 years, Residing at No.299, 11th Cross, 8th Main, Channammanakere Achukattu, Vidhyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560 085.

It is represented by said **Mrs.Geetha** that, she is the owner of the property described here below as Schedule Proeprty and pertaining to the same she had lost her previous Sale Deed/mother Deed dated 04.10.2001, Registered as No.9531/2001-02, Book-I, Vol.348, Pages 105-107, in the office of the Additional District Registrar, Bengaluru Urban District, Bengaluru, Executed by Bengaluru Development Authority in favor of her vendor Sri.Channaveeraiah. Hence, she had lodged/ registered the complaint with the police vide e-Lost Report No.2088801/2026 dated 02.03.2026. It is represented that, despite all her efforts to find the same is gone in vein and till today she had not found the same.

Mrs.Geetha had intended to mortgage / create charge over the Schedule Property, in favor of **Union Bank of India**, to secure the financial assistance propose to accorded by them, in view of the above, anybody, who have any manner of right, title, charge, interest, claim over the Schedule Property or any objections in whatsoever manner for the creation of charge over the schedule property in favor of the said Bank may file their objections before the undersigned or with the said Bank within **Seven Days** from the date of publication, with documentary evidence to substantiate their claim. And if the undersigned or the said Bank, does not receive any objections from whomsoever in whatsoever manner then it shall be presumed that the said Property is free from encumbrances and obligations and Bank may proceed to grant finance, by creating charge against the same.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Property bearing **BDA Site No.299,** BBMP presently Bengaluru West City Corporation **EPID No.5414690939, 11th Cross, 8th Main, Channammanakere Achukattu, Vidhyapeeta, BSK 3rd Stage, Bengaluru 560 085,** measuring East to West **20 Feet** AND North to South **30 feet,** in all measuring about **600 Sq Ft.,** AND is bounded by; **EAST : Site No.298, WEST : Site No.300, NORTH : Site No.284, SOUTH : Road.**

T.S.Ravi Kumar, Advocate
For, Union Bank of India
No.29, 3rd Temple Street,
Malleswaram, Bengaluru-560003
Mob : 9448258996, 8310539238

Bangalore Date: 04-03-2026

Metro Railway, Kolkata

e-Tender is invited by Principal Chief Engineer, Metro Railway for the following work: **Name of work:** "Retrofit of RC plinth on viaduct to prevent shifting of Rail plinth at Km 16/18 to 25/4 in both UP & DN Lines from Mahanayak Uttam Kumar to Kavi Subhash in section of Blue Line of Metro Railway, Kolkata": **Approx Cost of Work :** ₹ 2,76,81,963.00; **Earnest Money:** ₹ 2,88,400.00; **Completion Period:** 09 (Nine) Months; **Date and Time of Closing:** 31.03.2026 at 12:00 hrs.; The Tender Document and other details can be obtained from the website **www.ireps.gov.in**. Amendments/Corrigendum, if any, would be uploaded only on the website

Abridged e-Tender Notice No.: Civil-2566-2026-(Open)

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, vide its letter No. **SEIAA 309 CON 2025** dated: 31-01-2026 has accorded Environmental Clearance to **M/s. ASSETZ PRIVATE LIMITED** for Development of Residential Apartment with Amenity Block Project at Sy. No. 173/2, Gattahalli Village Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District, Karnataka as per the applicable provisions of EIA notification, 2006 and amended thereafter.

Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the SEIAA office and may also be seen on the website of the MOEF & CC at https://parivesh.nic.in

This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance. **Sd/-**

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Canara Bank,
ARM Branch I
2nd Floor, No. 86, Spencers Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001.

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provision to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described Movable Property Hypothecated to the Secured Creditor, the Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bengaluru of the Canara Bank, will be sold on "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **24.03.2026 at 11.00 AM to 12.00 PM,** for recovery of **Rs. 3,48,37,574.44/-** (Rupees Three Crore Forty Eight Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Four and Forty Four paisa only) as on 01.03.2026 with further interest and cost there on due to the ARM-1 Branch, Bengaluru of Canara Bank from. **1. M/s. Honnammadevi Exports Private Limited,** No. 213, Vanamala, 9th Main, 3rd Stage, BEML Layout, Rajarajeshwari Nagar, Bengaluru-560098. **2. Pradeep .S Wodeyar,** # 25, Veerabhadreshwara Krupa, 2nd Main Road, Dwarkanagar, Chandra Layout, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040. **3. Sri Nanjappa Manjunath Kadasuru** S/o. K M Nanjappa, 18/17, Sukshema, 2nd Main Road, Marenahalli, Vijayanagar, Bengaluru-560040.

The Earnest Money shall be Deposited by way of E-Wallet of **M/s. PSB Alliance Private Limited (https://baanknet.com/)** portal directly or by generating the Challan therein to deposit the EMD through RTGS/NEFT in the account details as mentioned in the said challan on or before **23.03.2026, 5.00 pm.** **(Rs. in lacs)**

Lot	Description of the immovable/ movable assets	Reserve Price	EMD	Incremental value
1	All that piece and parcel of the Residential property bearing Site No.35 & 36, formed out of Sy.No.119, V.P. Khatha No.2538, House List No.3284/35 & 36 of Nagarbhavi Village, Yeshwanthpur Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk Presently bearing Corporation No.13, Situated at Canara Bank Colony Road, Maruthi Nagar, BBMP Ward No.40, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 60 Feet and North To South: 40 feet along with Electricity, water and sanitary connection together with all rights, appurtenances whatsoever whether underneath or above the surface and **bounded as follows : East by :** Property belong to Mr. Shivanna, **West By :** Private property, **North by :** Property of Mr. Pradeep S Wodeyar, **South by :** Road. **Note :** As per sale Deed Extent is 2400 Sq.Feet but as per actuals it is 1822.446 Sq.Feet. only.	**Rs. 205.00**	**Rs. 20.50**	**Rs. 1.00**

Known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's **website (www.canarabank.com)** or may contact **Canara Bank, ARM Branch,** Bengaluru-560001, Phone No. **080-25310066, 9039609346, 9966397756** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 02.03.2026
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Offier
Canara Bank

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Date:	03 March 2026
Loan No. and Title:	Loan No:P59311-001 IND/ Chennai Climate resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP) and E-Procurement Notice
Contract No. and Title:	CNT/UGSS/NCB/ADB/003/2025-26 Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – **SW-02** - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 17 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9, 10 & 13 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	08/04/2026 Up to 15.00 Hours

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu through Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board ("the Employer") invites E-bids from eligible Bidders.
3. The Scope of Work: Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-02 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 17 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9, 10 & 13 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years. Including other works within the contract scope. ("the Works").
   Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 60.480 km of DWC / CI / HDPE gravity mains of sizes varying from 200mm dia to 900mm dia by Pipe bursting, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and open cut method of laying. Construction and up gradation of 1880 Nos of precast and cast in situ machine holes and Providing 7883 Nos of house sewer connections (HSCs) with 110mm and 160mm dia MDPE pipes. Operation and maintenance of entire collection system for a period of 5 years.
4. Open competitive bidding – National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:
   - Technical criteria specified is for at least one contract that has been satisfactorily completed within the last Five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).

S.No	Qualification Criteria	Details
1.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 450mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed in one single contract.	20 km
2.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 300mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed using Trenchless Technology by pipe bursting / HDD in one single contract.	6 km
3.	Operation & Maintenance of Sewerage Network system for a period of at least one year	1 project

   - Financial criteria specified are to be achieved within the last 5 years (2020–2021 to 2024–2025). (Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Qualification Criteria	Details (Rs. in Crores)
4.	Achieved minimum annual construction turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed.	98.60
	For Joint Venture (maximum three partners), for all partners combined (must meet the requirement)	98.60
	For any one partner	49.30
	For each partner	24.65
5.	One Sewerage network construction with the component of the proposed works of the value of not less than	59.16

   - Details of bid security and dates of Prebid meeting, bids closing date and bids opening dates

NIT No.	Nameofwork	E-Bid Security (INR)	Pre bid meeting Date	E-Bid Submission closing Date	E-Bid Opening Date
1	Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-02 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 17 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9, 10 & 13 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.	1.48 Cr	12/03/2026 at 11.00 Hours	08/04/2026 up to 15.00 Hours	08/04/2026 15.30 Hours

Note: Only E-Bid security is accepted.

More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.

6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
   SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACT & MONITORING)
   CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD,
   No.1, Pumping Station Road,
   Chintadripet, Chennai-02
   Telephone: +91 44 28451300.Extn.254
   E-mail: secandm@gmail.com
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
   - Refer to https://tntenders.gov.in(e-procurement portal of the Employer). The Bidding Documents will be available online on the website at www.tntenders.gov.in until before the deadline of bid submission.
8. Deliver your bid
   - Online at https://tntenders.gov.in on or before the deadline date specified at15:00 hours (IST) together with a E-Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   - Details of submission and opening of bids are as detailed above.

   Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Employer/Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission/delivery of bids.

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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MAMATHA Manjunath W/o. Manjunath.J, 203, 4th B Cross, Muneshwara Temple Road, Jakkur, Bluru-64 have changed my name to Mamatha.A (Mamatha Annaiappa) vide affidavit dt.23.02.26 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, B'luru.

WE, Babajan & Nazeema R/a No.31, 164/2, Teachers Colony, HBR Layout, 3rd Block, Near HP Petrol Bunk, Kalyan Nagar, Bangalore-560043 have changed our minor daughter's name from Palak to Falak Naz vide affidavit dt: 03.03.2026 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N, B'luru

I, JEETHMAL Nikhil, R/a No.25, Ridhi Villa, 2nd Cross, Nehru Nagar, Sheshadri Puram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Nikhil Kumar vide affidavit dt: 04.03.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, MAMATHA W/o. Murthy.N, 831, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Geethanjali Lyt, New Thippasandra, Bluru-75 have changed my name to Mamatha.N (Mamatha Narayanaswamy) vide affidavit dt.23.02.26 sworn before Notary S.Vijayakumar, Bluru.

I, SNEHALKUMAR Harshadbhai Solanki, s/o; Harshadbhai Natvarlal Solanki, r/o: No.1324, Kesari, 14th Main, 7th Cross, BTM Layout 2nd Stage, Blr – 560076. Have changed my name as Snehalkumar Solanki.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAINI Nikhil Jain, R/a No.25, Ridhi Villa, 2nd Cross, Nehru Nagar, Sheshadri Puram, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Jaini vide affidavit dt: 04.03.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, MITTAL Kirti Porwal, R/a No.30, Navkar, 3rd Cross, Kumara Park West, Bangalore-560020 have changed my name to Mittal Porwal vide affidavit dt: 04.03.2026 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

I, Ex-Army No.13896938K, Rank: Hawaldar, Name: Samaraj.I, S/o Isaiah, R/at No.10, Swaminathapuram, Oorgaumpet & Post, K G F-563121, have changed my daughter name from S.V. Sherin Blessy to Sherine Blessy.S.V and my son name from S.V. San Prithwin to San Prithwin.S.V. vide affidavit dated 26/02/2026 sworn before I Addl.Sr. Civil Judge & JMFC, K G F.

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LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal
Kozhikode, Kerala, OP (MV) 763/2023

Shiny.K. & Others : ***Petitioners***
And:
R1. Mahesh P.R., S/o.Prakash.C.
04, Naveen Nilaya, 3 rd Main 4 th Cross, Behind PES School, Peeniya 1 st Stage, Karnataka, Bangalore - 560058
R2. Prakash.C., S/o.Chandra.C.
44 B, B Block, 1 st Cross, 1st Main Yashwanthpur, Bangalore North, Bangalore - 560022
: ***Respondents*** (R1 & R2)

That the above case is posted to 17.04.2026 for the appearance of Respondent No.1 & 2 otherwise they will be set exparte by the Hon'ble Court.

(Sd/-) **Babu P.Benedict**
Advocate for the petitioner

PUBLIC NOTICE

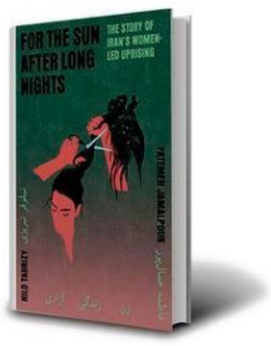
PUBLIC NOTICE

High Commission of India, London had received a Notice of intended Marriage from **Mr. Bharathesh Shambhu Shetty,** S/o Shambhu Shetty, holder of **Indian Passport No. Z4797702** and Miss Nycy Thazhath Dixon, D/o Dixon holder of **Indian Passport No. U6385619** under the Foreign Marriage Act 1969 of India. Objection, if any (Along with valid reasons), to the intended Marriage may be conveyed to the High Commission of India, London within **30 days** of Publication of this Notice at the following address:
Second Secretary
High Commission of India,
India House, Aldywch, WC2B 4NA

Sd/-
Panchali Das
SS (Consular)

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Shattered streets: People walk past damaged buildings following a strike amid U.S.-Israel conflict with Iran, in Tehran, on Wednesday. REUTERS



The more things change in Iran, the more they remain the same

As war and uncertainty grip Iran, three books — each from a different moment in the country's history — revisit the Shah's fall, the rise of the Islamic Republic, and the women-led uprising that challenged power in Tehran

Saleem Rashid Shah

In September 1941, a 22-year-old Mohammad Reza Pahlavi ascended the throne of Iran while his father, Reza Shah, was sent into an honourable exile to Johannesburg by the British. Becoming a monarch at such a young age, the Shah tried his best to emulate his father. Towards the end of his reign, he even invoked his larger-than-life father's authority till the Iranian revolution of 1979 forced him to flee.

Cut to the present. Amid a deepening economic crisis, Iran has been bombed by Israel and the United States. Its Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has been assassinated and more than 780 people have been killed in the country so far. Iran has struck back, and the war has plunged the entire West Asian region into turmoil. Shah's son Reza Pahlavi, who has lived in the U.S. since 1979, has declared that he is ready to return to Iran "as soon as possible".

While there has been a clamour in some quarters in Iran to have the crown prince back, he has a complex legacy – his father's era is seen as a time when Iran had closer ties to the West, but it was also a time when there was censorship, human rights abuses, and a Savak secret police, which suppressed dissent with impunity.

A disconnected Shah

In this backdrop, reading Polish journalist and writer Ryszard Kapuściński's *Shah of Shahs*, which traces the last days of the Shah before the Iranian revolution, is an eye-opener. Kapuściński's book was first published in 1982 and was translated into English by William R. Brand and Katarzyna Mroczkowska-Brand.

The book gives a sense that the more things change in Iran, the more they remain the same. At present, instead of Savak, for instance, there are units of the Revolutionary Guard, keeping a fierce eye on dissenters, sending them to prison and, in many cases, to their death.

The Shah, says Kapuściński, made a sweeping claim, betting on oil, that "Iran will leap forward and build a Great Civilization." The only magic wand the Shah held in his hand and with which he thought of transforming Iran in just 10 years was oil. As Kapuściński writes: "Oil kindles extraordinary emotions and hopes, since oil is above all a great temptation. It is the temptation of ease, wealth, strength, fortune, and power. It is a filthy, foul-smelling liquid that squirts obligingly up into the air and falls back to earth as a rustling shower of money." With oil, the Shah used to say, "I will create a second America in a generation!" He never did, but this vanity ended up being one of the reasons for his downfall.

What was strikingly absent in the Shah's grand idea of Iran was the well-being of its people. His notorious intelligence agency, Savak, was the Shah's eyes and ears. Savak eavesdropped on everyone who dared to speak out against the Shah. Books and films by Iran's best writers and filmmakers were banned. As for the intellectuals, their thoughts were stifled and they were condemned to silence.

The Shah, writes Kapuściński, left people with a choice between Savak and the religious leaders. The Islamic revolution of 1979 was thus more of an anti-Shah revolution than a pro-Ruhollah Khomeini one. He writes: "A dictatorship [Shah's reign] that destroys the intelligentsia and culture leaves behind itself an empty, sour field on which the tree of thought won't grow quickly. It is not always the best people who emerge from hiding, from the corners and cracks of that farmed-out field, but often those who have proved themselves strongest; not always those who will create new values but rather those whose thick skin and internal resilience have ensured their survival. In such circumstances, history begins to turn in a tragic, vicious circle, from which it can sometimes take a whole epoch to break free."

Despite a dose of magic realism in his reportage and beautiful prose, Kapuściński leaves out the many instances in which America acted behind the curtains to bring about these changes in Iran.

Moral police

But terror did not disappear from Iran. In his groundbreaking book, *What Iranians Want: Women, Life, Freedom,* Arash Azizi argues that after taking the reins of power from the Shah, "Khomeini wanted to fundamentally reshape life in Iran to conform to his idea of Islam. Muslim reformers had, for decades, attempted to reconcile their faith and its ideals with the necessities of their age. Khomeini wanted none of that. His government was to be Islamic, as he understood it, 'not a word more, not a word less'."

After Khomeini's death, Khamenei became the rahbar of the Islamic Republic. One of the most consequential figures in Iran in recent times, he built a theocratic system. But over the last few years, on Khamenei's watch, there was unrest in Iran due to both political and economic reasons. In 2022, a Kurdish Iranian woman, Mahsa Amini, was mysteriously killed in Tehran. All that she lacked was a proper headscarf. Her death in detention led to nationwide waves of protests spearheaded by the women of Iran under the slogan 'Women, Life, Freedom'.

Azizi guides readers through a new history that was being written on the streets of Iran by its women. For them, the revolutionaries of 1979 had transformed into today's regime. They believed that the Guidance Patrol, a dreaded wing of the Iranian police's moral division that killed Mahsa Amini in detention, was just another name for the Shah's dreaded Savak.

The women's movement

Journalists who reported on the women's movement faced imprisonment and even death, but they courageously brought to the fore the atrocities being inflicted on the people of Iran. Fatemah Jamalpour was one such fearless journalist who, despite being arrested multiple times and having faced many interrogation sessions, kept reporting on state repression. She was accompanied by another Iranian journalist, Nilo Tabrizy, who, however, emigrated from Iran after covering the women-led movement from the frontlines.

Corresponding through encrypted platforms to protect Fatemah (who was still in Iran), the two journalists wrote *For The Sun After Long Nights: The Story of Iran's Women-Led Uprising*. In it, they document the spirit and legacy of the movement and all the events that led them to this point.

Today, many women are once again out on the streets, this time protesting the Israel-U.S.-led war. In *Shah of Shahs*, Kapuściński recalls a scene: a policeman under the Shah orders a protester to run. The man refuses to move and stands there until he is no longer afraid. Kapuściński writes that it is "precisely the beginning of the revolution." The lesson resonates now.

The turmoil in Iran may be shaped by the geopolitical designs of powerful states, but no durable change can be engineered from outside. As in Kapuściński's account, it begins when ordinary people claim their own political future. Any path forward must therefore be led by the Iranians themselves.

(Saleem Rashid Shah is a book critic and an independent writer based in Kashmir)

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On this day in 1616, Nicolaus Copernicus' book on the heliocentric theory was banned by the then dominant Church. Here is a quiz on other 'heretics' who changed the world

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

Probably humanity's earliest organised "sceptics", none of their philosophical work survives directly and historians have been able to tease it out through critics of their work. Name this ancient Indian materialist school which rejected the Vedas and held that only what can be perceived through the five senses is real.

QUESTION 2

He was forced by the Roman Inquisition to publicly recant his support for Copernican heliocentrism and spent his final years under house arrest. Name the scientist whose telescopic observations dramatically changed humanity's view of the cosmos.

QUESTION 3

A countryman of the person in Q2, this person was tried for heresy by the Inquisition for holding views such as the universe being infinite and having no centre or fixed boundary. He was burned at the stake in Rome in 1600.

QUESTION 4

Considered one of the most original thinkers of the 17th century and who inspired the Enlightenment, this Dutch philosopher was "expelled" from the Jewish community for equating God with Nature and treating the Bible as a human and not divine document, rather than the word of God. Name him.

QUESTION 5

This scientist discovered that stars are primarily made of hydrogen and helium, but was pressured by Henry Norris Russell, an influential astronomer, to retract her finding, only to be proved right later. Name this British-American astronomer.

Visual Question:
This physicist was persona non grata in his country, not for his scientific beliefs, but his religious affiliation, despite being a Nobel Laureate. Name him and his community. CC BY-SA 3.0 NL

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Holi celebrates the arrival of which season in India? **Ans: Spring**
2. Holi commemorates the victory of Vishnu as Narasimha over which demon king from mythology? **Ans: Hiranyakashipu**
3. This festival, related to Holi, is a Hindu swing festival celebrated during this time, especially in Assam, Odisha, Gujarat and Bengal. **Ans: Dol Purnima**
4. This community started celebrating the festival, at least through the 19th century, with its historic texts referring to it as Hola. It is also called Hola Mohalla. To which religious community is this significant to? **Ans: Sikhs**
5. This is a national holiday in this country, where it is called the Phagwa festival. The capital of this country is Paramaribo. Name the country. **Ans: Suriname**
Visual: The night before Holi, bonfires are lit in a ceremony. Identify this celebration. **Ans: Holika Dahan**
Early Birds: C. Saravanan | Barnali Biswas | Tito Shiladitya | Sukdev Shet | Parimal Das

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

S. Upendran

What is the meaning and origin of 'political maverick'? (K. Venkatraman, Bangalore)
Samuel Augustus Maverick was a wealthy landlord who lived in Texas in the United States in the 19th Century. Like many landlords, he too owned cows. In those days, it was the practice among people who owned cattle to brand them; that is they used a red hot iron to burn the owner's initials into the flesh of the animal. Maverick, on the other hand, didn't follow the convention that was practised. His argument was if everyone was branding their cows, then all those cows that were not branded were his! So, the original meaning of 'maverick' was a cow without a brand. Later, the word began to be applied to people.

When you refer to a person as being a maverick, it means he/she does not follow the usual conventions.

Many people think that my friend Bala is a maverick.

In 1935, Maverick's grandson, Samuel Maverick's grandson, became a Congressman. He and some of his friends refused to follow what the party leaders told them to do. This group of individuals who refused to listen to their party's orders began to be called "mavericks". In politics, a maverick is a person whose opinions are radically different from those of the party.

Which of the following sentences is correct? "A few tablespoonsful of sugar were added" or "A few tablespoonsful of sugar was added". (Mathangi K. Kumar, Anand, Gujarat)
Since it is a few tablespoonsful, the verb should be "were" and not "was". "Of sugar" merely gives you additional information as to what was added and not how much was added.

What is the meaning of genteel? How do you pronounce the word? (M. Karthikeyan, Coimbatore)
The "eel" in 'genteel' is pronounced like the "ee" in "feel", "heel", and "kneel". The stress is on the second syllable. Genteel is a formal word and it is often used to refer to people who belong to the high social class. Nowadays, the word is being used to refer to people who want to impress others by pretending to be of a higher class than they really are.

Which is correct? "Hundred per cent" or "cent per cent"? (N. S. R. Sastri, Vizag)
In India, it is very common to hear people say:

I agree with you cent per cent.

Native speakers of English, however, do not use "cent per cent". They prefer to use "hundred".

Is "juniority" an acceptable word? (C. R. Shaju, Thrissur, Kerala)
We have the word "seniority", so why not "juniority"? It is a possible word, but it doesn't find a place in any dictionary.

I meet my friend in the evening. I am seeing him for the first time that day. Can I wish him "good morning"? (G. Daniel Cheliah, Tirupur)
No. You wish him "good evening". How you greet a person depends on the time of the day and not on whether you are seeing him/her for the first or second time on a particular day. The only time you wish a person "good morning" is when you meet him before noon.
Published in The Hindu on October 26, 1999

Word of the day

Pithy:
concise and full of meaning

Synonyms: short, crisp, to the point

Usage: *The article ends with a pithy comment.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/pithypro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /pɪθi/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

State's HPV vaccination plan revived under Centre's national rollout

The programme announced in Karnataka earlier could not take off as planned due to delays in vaccine procurement; around six lakh girls have been identified as eligible beneficiaries in State

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

The State government had issued a GO to administer two doses of the HPV vaccine to girls aged 9 to 14 in mining-affected districts as a preventive measure against cervical cancer. GETTY IMAGES

The Health Dept. has stepped up awareness efforts at the grassroots level to encourage families to utilise the free vaccination facility

Although Karnataka had announced a dedicated Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination drive last year for girls in mining-affected districts, the programme could not take off as planned due to delays in vaccine procurement. Now, with the Union government rolling out a nationwide HPV immunisation initiative, the State is set to begin implementation under the national framework.

The State government had issued a Government Order on August 9 last year, following an announcement in the 2025-26 Budget, to administer two doses of the HPV vaccine to girls aged 9 to 14 in mining-affected districts as a preventive measure against cervical cancer. The initial phase was to cover eight taluks across four mining-affected districts - Gubbi, Chikkanayakanahalli and Tiptur in Tumakuru; Sandur in Ballari; Holalkere, Hosadurga and Molakalmuru in Chitradurga; and Hosapete in Vijayanagara.

KMERC grant
A grant of ₹4.74 crore had been sanctioned through the Karnataka Mining Environment Restoration Corporation (KMERC), with each dose costing ₹1,260. Officials said extensive groundwork had been completed, and 37,470 eligible BPL beneficiaries – students in government and aided schools as well as out-of-school girls – had been identified.

However, the vaccination drive was delayed due to changes in the official hierarchy at the Karnataka State Medical Supplies Corporation Ltd. (KSMSCL), which slowed the procurement process.

On February 28, the Union government formally launched a nationwide HPV vaccination programme, inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Ajmer, Rajasthan. Following this, Karnataka initiated its State-level rollout last Saturday at K.C. General Hospital.

2.54L single dose vials
Under the national programme, a single-dose HPV vaccine will be administered to girls aged 14 to 15. The State has received 2.54 lakh single-dose vials from the Centre, and distribution to districts is currently under way. The campaign is expected to gather momentum in the coming days.

In Karnataka, around six lakh girls have been identified as eligible beneficiaries. Nearly 1.15 crore girls across the country in the 14-15 age group are expected to benefit from the programme.

The vaccine will be administered through Ayushman Arogya Mandirs (Primary Health Centres), Community Health Centres, sub-district and district hospitals, and government medical colleges. In Bengaluru, the drive will be conducted in all government facilities, including hospitals attached to Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute and Bowring and Lady Curzon Medical College and Research Institute.

Three-month campaign
The three-month campaign will be implemented in phases to ensure that all identified beneficiaries are covered. The Health Department has stepped up awareness efforts at the grassroots level to encourage families to utilise the free vaccination facility.

Cervical cancer remains one of the leading causes of cancer-related illness among women. The HPV vaccine protects against the Human Papillomavirus, a major cause of the disease.

HC allows investigation against gold investment start-up in Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Wednesday said that a thorough investigation is required into the business of Bengaluru-based digital gold investment start-up company, JAR Gold Retail Private, while refusing to quash the First Information Report (FIR) registered against it by the city police under the provisions of the Banning of Unregulated Deposit Schemes (BUDS) Act, 2019.

The company, which has recorded a turnover of ₹4,000 crore since its inception in 2021 with 3.3 crore investor accounts, had questioned the legality of FIR registered under the BUDS Act, while claiming that it is not engaged or dealing with deposits, regulated or unregulated, and that company's digital gold investment does not come under the perview of the BUDS Act.

Definition of 'deposit'
Refusing to accept these contentions of the company, Justice M. Nagaprasanna said the provisions of BUDS the Act define "deposit" in 'expansive terms' and the argument that the statute must be construed narrowly, so as to exclude digital or gold backed arrangements, stands repelled.

The court passed the order while dismissing the petitions filed by the company, which has arraigned as accused number 4 and one of its directors, Nishchay Babu Arkalgud, who is arraigned as accused number 3 in the FIR. The other directors, Misbah Ashraf, accused number 1, who co-founded the company as an e-commerce seller of gold, and Sandesh Nahar, accused number 2, have not filed petition against the FIR, the court noted.

The FIR was registered on January 16 after the police conducted a preliminary investigation between August-December 2025 based on the alert received from the Market Intelligence unit of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), which acted on a complaint, indicating that digital gold scheme of the JAR is not coming under the purview of either the RBI or the Security and Exchange Board of India (SEBI).

The company allows investment in gold, starting from ₹10, through its JAR App claiming to be "India's number-1 gold saving app".

Gold found
Though the company had claimed before the court that it has an agreement with Brinks India Private Ltd. for storage of gold and all the gold, purchased by the investors, is stored in the vault of Brinks, the court, from the investigation papers, pointed out that that police searches have allegedly yielded gold bearing the company's branding on the premises of the office-bearers of the company.

"Investigation in such cases is imperative, as the investors have already made hue and cry through communications between them that there is no gold and no money," the Justice Nagaprasanna observed while stating that the court cannot interfere at this stage.

Noticing the apprehension raised about the credibility of the gold investment scheme by users of Jar App and observations by several customers/users about "purported fraud" in comments section of the app, the court said that with all the communications in public domain, "the police ostensibly cannot keep quiet, as every citizen is involved in this and it has a potential of growing up into a huge problem".

Fresh concern after Yathindra says stadium will come up on KSIC premises in T. Narsipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's son and MLC Yathindra's statement that a stadium will be built in the premises of the KSIC filature factory in T. Narsipur has become a cause for fresh concern among people campaigning against the project.

Though H.C. Mahadevappa, Minister in-charge of Mysuru district, had sought to dismiss speculations about any move by the government to close the KSIC filature factory in T. Narsipur and had assured to explore alternatives if the stadium project affects the factory, its operations or the workers, environmental organisation Parisarakkagi Naavu found Mr. Yathindra's statement on Tuesday to be "contradictory".

Speaking to reporters in T. Narsipur on Tuesday, Mr. Yathindra said the stadium would benefit the people of T. Narsipur and the local youth. Acknowledging the "technical" concerns raised by people against the stadium project, the MLC said the officials, who had explored various sites, had identified the factory land as the most suitable site.

Budget 2026: Siddaramaiah faces a tightrope walk

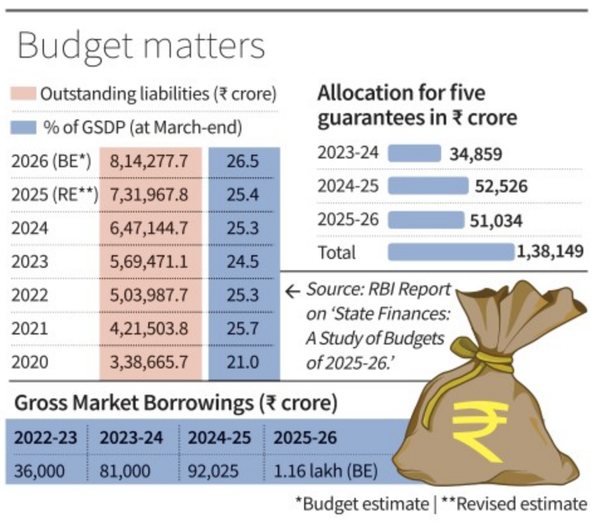
With annual spending on the five guarantee schemes exceeding ₹50,000 crore and casting a shadow over long-term fiscal sustainability, the Chief Minister may appeal to relatively well-off families to voluntarily give up certain benefits

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

As the Congress government in Karnataka gears up to present the 2026-27 Budget on Friday, it faces a tightrope walk between containing revenue deficit and funding its guarantee schemes, amid speculation over a possible change of Chief Minister after the Budget Session.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who also holds the Finance portfolio, presents his 17th Budget on Friday.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has asserted that spending on the guarantee schemes has been a driving force behind women's financial autonomy and gender equality. K. MURALI KUMAR



Female empowerment

Mr. Siddaramaiah, who recently became the longest-serving Chief Minister of Karnataka by surpassing the record held by D. Devaraj Urs, has asserted that spending on the guarantee schemes has been a driving force behind women's financial autonomy and gender equality – one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.

A whopping ₹1.2 lakh crore has been spent on these guarantees since their inception up to the end of January, 2026.

The Bharatiya Janata Party and the Janata Dal (Secular) have accused the government of using welfare schemes to divert attention from its alleged failure to develop infrastructure and irrigation projects, thereby causing a financial strain.

They have also alleged that taxes and prices of essential commodities and services have been raised multiple times to fund these guarantees and safeguard Mr. Siddaramaiah's position. The Supreme Court recently chastised State governments for distributing "freebies" indiscriminately without distinguishing between the haves and the have-nots.

With annual spending exceeding ₹50,000 crore on guarantees casting a shadow over long-term fiscal sustainability, Mr. Siddaramaiah may appeal to relatively well-off families to voluntarily give up certain benefits. The government is also likely to rationalise the number of beneficiaries under the guarantee schemes to reduce non-development expenditure.

The current financial year (2025-26) is expected to witness a revenue deficit of at least ₹18,000 crore, owing to the rationalisation of the GST and a decline in property-related revenues caused by disruptions in the issuance of e-Khatas in Bengaluru.

Shortfall in revenues

The State's tax revenue stood at ₹1,55,405.57 crore as of January, as against the target of ₹2,08,100 crore for 2025-26. Collecting the remaining ₹52,000 crore in February and March would be a daunting task, likely resulting in the downward revision of the Budget size from ₹4,09,549 crore in 2025-26 to around ₹3.9 lakh crore.

The State's estimated total liabilities are projected to cross ₹8.14 lakh crore by March, amounting to 26.5% of the Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP) - breaching the permissible limit of 25% mandated by the Karnataka Fiscal Responsibility Act (KFRA), 2002.

Only in 2022-23 and 2019-20 did the liabilities remain within the statutory limit.

More taxes likely

To mobilise additional revenue, Mr. Siddaramaiah is expected to increase taxes on fuel, liquor, and property registration.

Govt. disputes numbers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Disputing the quantum of liabilities as calculated by the Reserve Bank of India, the State government has argued that as per the 2025-26 Budget estimates, by the end of March, 2026, it is projected at ₹7,64,655 crore, which constitutes 24.91% of the GSDP.

It cited three reasons for the difference – inclusion of loans raised for GST compensation to State by the Union government, double counting of cesses deposited in a fund and later used for capital investments and Consolidated Sinking Fund and Guarantee redemption Fund of the RBI which are also treated as liabilities of States. Stating that about ₹60,500 crore has been "incorrectly reflected as part of the State's liabilities in the external report", the government said that it has made communications to the AG to re-classify these entries and a resolution is expected soon.

Internal reservation: Dalit Ministers hold meetings to arrive at a consensus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Ahead of the Cabinet meeting on Thursday during which the internal reservation issue is scheduled to be discussed, Dalit Ministers on Wednesday held parleys to arrive at a possible broader consensus on the issue that has now driven a wedge among Scheduled Castes and left the Cabinet divided.

The BJP, meanwhile, has announced a State-wide protest against the confusion.

Ministers from both the Dalit Right (Holeya) and the Dalit Left (Madiga) castes separately met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the senior most Dalit leader in the State. Dalit Left Ministers K.H. Muniyappa and R.B. Thimmapur also met Dalit Right Minister G. Parameshwara to find a possible solution.

Kharge's guidance

Mr. Muniyappa said they held a comprehensive discussion with Mr. Kharge on implementing internal reservation, and the latter gave guidance to arrive at a settlement. "A just and balanced sharing of reservation among the SCs will be discussed with the Chief Minister," he said.

The Cabinet is divided over the government's decision to kickstart the recruitment process for 56,432 posts, adhering to the 50% cap in reservation and without internal reservation among SCs. While the Dalit Right Ministers are against internal reservation within 15% quota for SCs, the Dalit Left Ministers are insisting the internal reservation matrix should be drawn for the 15% quota.

Meanwhile, defending the decision, another Dalit Right Minister Priyank Kharge told presspersons about the legal hurdles, "The government favouring social justice stopped recruitment process before the internal quota matrix was drawn. Based on empirical data, the legislature passed a law. How are we then against internal reservation? If someone goes to court, is it the government's fault? There are a total of six cases in court."

Stating that everything had to be done legally, he said, "We have been transparent. We are ready to provide 6% as backlog. Let the court give its verdict."

State-wide protest

Accusing the Congress government of meting out injustice to Scheduled Castes

Right and Left divide

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Dalit Left communities, under the Federation of Madiga Sanghas, are also seeking legal opinion about the government decision to keep away internal reservation from the recruitment process. A handbill issued to create awareness in the community terms the decision on internal reservation as "betrayal by Congress".

On the other hand, welcoming the government's decision to hold recruitment with 15% quota and without internal reservation, the Federation of Karnataka State Dalit Right Communities has asked the government to reject the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission report as "unscientific" since it had "under reported" the numbers of Dalit Right by spreading communities in various other categories.

communities, the BJP has warned of a State-wide protest if provisions were not made for including internal reservation for SC communities during the proposed recruitment initiative.

Addressing a press conference in Bengaluru on Wednesday, BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra took exception to the decision to go ahead with the recruitment without internal reservation and also peg the total reservation quantum at 50% as against 56% provided by the erstwhile BJP government. He warned that this would create unrest among oppressed communities.

Mr. Vijayendra accused Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of meting out injustice to Dalits despite coming to power with the support of communities from AHINDA (Kannada acronym for Minorities, Backward Classes and Dalits).

Govt. forms tripartite panel for formulation of Labour Code Rules

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The Karnataka government has formed tripartite committees tolook into the formulation of the State government rules for the four Labour Codes notified by the Central government.

The four committees, one for each Labour Code and comprising representatives from the Labour Department, trade unions, and employers, have been formed to revise and finalise the draft rules and issue the required notifications.

Minister's assurance

The development follows a meeting held by Labour Minister Santosh Lad with employer and employee representatives on February 11.

A file photo of Labour Minister Santosh Lad

The development follows a meeting by Labour Minister Santosh Lad with employer and employee representatives on February 11

While the State had previously formed committees to look into the same, they comprised only Labour Department officials. During the meeting with the Minister, the union and industry representatives shared concerns and feedback regarding the draft rules published by the government. Following this Mr. Lad assured that the existing committees will be converted into tripartite committees.

Each committee now consists of 17-19 members.

The Labour Department recently published the draft rules for all four Codes. The draft rules are open for feedback for45 days.

After the closure of the feedback window, the committees will analyse the feedback and provide inputs for the preparation of notificationsto be issued by the State Government.

Following the publication of the draft rules, the trade unions had raised several objections regarding the proposals to increase working hours and impose restrictions on the right to strike, among others.

It was also criticised that the draft rules were published without consulting the industry and union leaders.

HC orders release of Nigerians for procedural lapses in their arrest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Stating that the right guaranteed under Article 22(1) of the Constitution, against the arrest of a person without being informed about the grounds of arrest, extends even to foreign nationals, the High Court of Karnataka has ordered the release of two Nigerian nationals as the grounds for their arrest were contrary to Supreme Court's guidelines.

However, the court directed the authorities to deport them immediately after they were released, as they were overstaying in India for over a decade without a visa but for the reason that they were involved in criminal case.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna passed the order while allowing the petition filed by Emeka James Iwoba, 39, alias Austin Noso Iwoba and Uderike Fidelis, 34, who had challenged the legality of their arrest by the Bengaluru City Police in May 2024.

"The Constitutional protection extends to all persons within the territory of India as it is not citizen-centric but person-centric," the court observed.

Meanwhile, the court directed the government to constitute a State and district-level screening committee on overstaying foreign nationals as per the SOP and submit a report within four months.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

KADEMADA GANAPATHY BELLIAPPA (GOPA)
(aged 101 yrs)
Director General (RDSO)
Indian Railways (Retd)
It is with great sadness that we announce the demise of our loving father on 2nd March 2026.
The Belliappa Family
98454 56040

IN THE COURT OF THE I ADDL. CIVIL JUDGE AND JMFC AT TUMAKURU
F.D.P. No. 02/2012
PETITIONER: Puttalakshmamma V/s
RESPONDENTS: Chikkanarasamma and Another
PAPER PUBLICATION
Notice to L.Rs of respondent No. R 2(c) in the above case
Respondents: R:2(c) CHAITHRA D/o Gowramma, Aged about 35 years, residing at Thirumalapalya Village, Kora Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk.
WHEREAS, the above petitioner have instituted the above petition against the respondent for decree to concerned Revenue/ Survey authorities, for effecting partition and separate possession of plaintiffs 1/2 share by metes and bounds, and such other relief.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY: (1) All the part and parcel of the land bearing Sy.No. 86 to out of 09-19-19 gts out of 09-19 gts, dry, situated at Bommanahalli Village, Kora Hobli, Tumakuru Taluk, and bounded by: East: Land of Dasappa, West: Land of Salera Byraiah, North: Land of Hanumakka, South: Rangashamaiah. (2) Mud roofed house bearing Khaneshumari No.23, situated at Thirumalapalya Village, Tumakuru Taluk, and bounded by East: Vacant site of Puttabalaiah, West: House of Gopalaiah, North: House of Lakshmakka, South: Land of Narayanappa. Take notice that you have been made as L.rs of respondent No.2(c) in the above suit and the same is posted for your appearance on 01.04.2026 at 11.00 am before the I Addl. Civil Judge at Tumakuru, therefore, you are hereby summoned to appear on the said date either through person nor through your advocate, failing which the case will be heard and determined in your absence.
Given under my hand and seal of this Court, this the 2nd day of March 2026.
By Order of This Court
Sd/- Sheristedar
Pril. Civil Judge & JMFC Court , Tumakuru
Advocate for Plaintiff
Bendre Kumar T. B.Sc., LL.B., Advocate 1st Floor, Behind Nilcose Works, Church Square, Mandipete Main Road, Tumakuru.

Tourists get Wi-Fi in remote areas of Uttara Kannada

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Acer India, has introduced wifi connectivity in Yana and Sahasralinga, two promi-Keeping in mind tourists visiting the historical, spiritual, and natural attractions, including waterfalls, in the remote forested regions of Uttara Kannada district in Karnataka, GNA India Private Limited has launched a wifi facility to illuminate the 'blind spots', or remote areas where network signals previously failed to reach.

In the first phase, the Bengaluru-based company, in collaboration with

Yana is located in the forest of the Katgal Range in Uttara Kannada district. K. MURALI KUMAR

nent pilgrimage and tourist destinations in Uttara Kannada district.

Yana is a popular tourist destination located in the forest of the Katgal Range in Uttara Kannada. Known as one of the cleanest and wettest villages in Karnataka, it is a natural wonder featuring two massive black limestone rock formations-Bhairaveshwara Shikhara and Mohini Shikhara. Surrounded by dense forest and crystal-clear streams, Yana offers trekkers, pilgrims, and nature enthusiasts a mystical blend of adventure and spirituality. However, until recently, the lack of telephone connectivity had been a major challenge for tourists.

Sahasralinga, another holy site, is located around 14 km from Sirsi in Uttara Kannada district. The Sahasralingeśvara temple, situated on the banks of the Shalmala river, is renowned for the presence of a thousand Shiva lingas carved on the rocks in the riverbed.

The GNA has partnered with the BSNL and Acer India to install small towers and provide digital connectivity in these remote areas.

Nagaraja Munidasappa, managing director of GNA India, told *The Hindu*, "We have successfully implemented wifi facilities in the remote rural tourist areas of Yana and Sahasralinga. The initiative has received an encouraging response. Our intention is to expand this project across India in the near future in collaboration with the BSNL. This initiative will play a vital role in strengthening the Rural Smart Village Center Project."

Acer India is supporting the GNA by providing advanced computing hardware to complement the last-mile connectivity infrastructure.

KARNATAKA INDUSTRIAL AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
No.2, 2/1 and 2/3, Kalidasa Marg, 1st Main Road, Gandhinagar
Bengaluru - 560 009. Phone No. 080-22265383, website: www.kiadb.in
IADB/ENGG/ETND-EP-91/2286/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026
NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)
Item Rate Tender under two cover bid system is invited for the works mentioned below as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors who have got adequate financial resources, state of the art technology, suitable construction equipments, technical man power & sufficient past experience for the work of :
Name of the Work : Formation of 15m wide road, 18m wide road, 24m wide road, 30m wide road & 45m wide road, construction of RCC Side Drain, Construction of spur culvert & Construction of box culvert at Dobaspet 5th Phase Industrial Area, Nelamangala Taluk, Bengaluru Rural District.
The last date and time of receipt of tender is : 07.04.2026 upto 4.00 pm.
Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.
Sd/-
Chief Engineer-1, KIADB Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/6010/ZEN/2025-26

Human Resources Development Minister N. Lokesh cites references to a CBI chargesheet and remarks attributed to a former TTD chairman, and asserts that evidence of adulteration exists.
REPRESENTATIONAL PICTURE

A.P. Ministers, YSRCP members trade barbs over laddu row

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Proceedings in the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Council was marred by repeated disruptions on Wednesday as a heated debate over the alleged adulteration of ghee used in Tirumala laddus triggered sharp exchanges between the treasury and opposition benches. The House was eventually adjourned till Thursday following protests by YSRCP members.

Tensions escalated after Minister for Agriculture Kinjarapu Atchannaidu, during the short-duration discussion, referred to former Chief Minister Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy in religious terms. Objecting strongly, YSRCP MLCs rushed to the Chairman's (K. Moshenu Raju in the chair) podium, demanding that the remarks be withdrawn and an apology tendered.

Though the House was briefly adjourned, sloganeering resumed when proceedings restarted, with the Minister reiterating his stand and questioning why Mr. Jagan had not visited Tirumala with his family during his tenure.

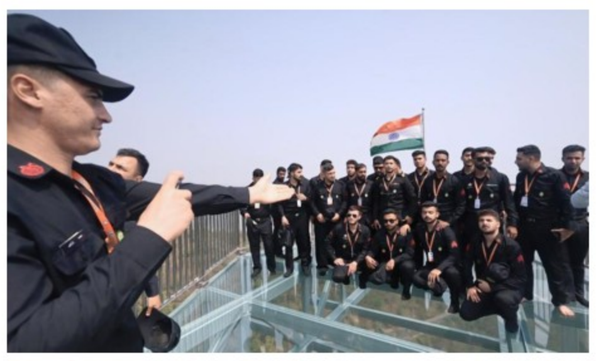
The debate had been admitted by the Council Chairman with a one-hour allocation. Independent MLC P. Chandrasekhar Reddy initiated the discussion, raising allegations related to ghee procurement and referring to Heritage. TDP members objected, asserting that Heritage Foods had no link with the Tirumala laddu issue.

Mr. Atchannaidu maintained that attempts were being made to divert attention from the core issue of adulteration and said he was prepared for a detailed debate for as many days as required. Following objections from the Chair over certain remarks, the Minister later withdrew them and expressed regret.

Minister for Education and IT Nara Lokesh entered the debate. He argued that contracts were awarded only to the L-1 bidder in tender processes and questioned whether ghee could realistically be supplied at ₹300 a kg without adulteration. He further cited references to a CBI chargesheet and remarks attributed to a former TTD chairman, asserting that evidence of adulteration existed.

From selfies in Vizag to a watery grave off Sri Lanka

The U.S. torpedo attack on an Iranian warship and its sinking has triggered shock and disbelief across the A.P. coastal city from where the navy personnel had sailed out in late February



Turn of events: Naval personnel from Iran stand for a photo shoot on the glass bridge at Kailasagiri during their tour of Visakhapatnam (left); and an injured Iranian sailor at the Karapitiya hospital in Galle, Sri Lanka, on Wednesday. V. RAJU/AFP

Harish Gilai
VISAKHAPATNAM

Reports of a United States submarine torpedoing and sinking an Iranian warship in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Sri Lanka have left residents of Visakhapatnam stunned.

The development triggered disbelief across the coastal city, particularly because personnel from the Iranian Navy had visited the "City of Destiny" barely two weeks ago to participate in the International Fleet Review 2026 (IFR) and MILAN 2026.

Towards home

After the closing ceremony of MILAN in the last week of February, the Iranian ship had sailed out of Visakhapatnam.

Apart from participating in the IFR and the MILAN city parade, the officers and sailors of the reportedly sunk vessel, *IRIS Dena*, had left a lasting impression on the citizens.

They had visited several tourist spots, including the popular Kailasagiri. "They clicked numerous selfies and photographs with locals at the park, especially on the glass skywalk bridge," recalled a city resident.

The personnel had also visited shopping malls, purchasing souvenirs and artefacts to take back home. "Little did they know that they might meet a watery grave miles away from their homeland," he said.

Expressing anguish, a former senior Indian naval officer remarked that the ship had been on a goodwill mission and was on its way back home.

"It is true that a carrier battle group is typically protected by submarines positioned miles apart, supported by a fleet of ships and airborne assets such as the P-8I aircraft, which is capable of launching anti-ship missiles and torpedoes. The U.S. Navy should have exercised some restraint," he said. More importantly, he noted, both the United States and Iran had participated in the IFR and MILAN exercises, with officers from the two nations staying under the same roof in city hotels.

He added that the attack might have occurred during the "middle watch" – between midnight and 4 a.m. – considered one of the most vulnerable phases for any ship navigating troubled waters.

Memorable moments

During their visit, the Iranian Navy personnel spent memorable moments exploring the coastal city.

They toured prominent tourist destinations, taking in Visakhapatnam's scenic beauty and warm hospitality.

The delegation visited Kailasagiri, Tenneti Park, and VMRDA Park. The glass bridge experience, in particular, left them awestruck by the sweeping coastline.

The Iranian contingent had actively participated in the International City Parade organised as part of MILAN 2026 at Beach Road on February 20.

The parade drew enthusiastic crowds, with many residents seizing the opportunity to click selfies with naval personnel from Iran and other participating nations during the concluding ceremony.

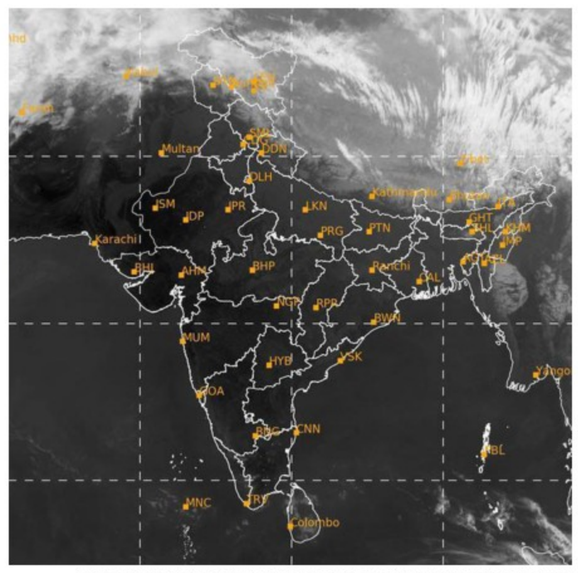
For several locals, news of the reported naval strike has come as a profound shock.

S. Pawan, a young resident who had photographed Iranian Navy personnel during the City Parade, expressed disbelief over the reports.

"It is truly shocking to hear this news. Just days ago, I clicked pictures with Iranian Navy officers during the parade on Beach Road. They were friendly and cheerful. It is hard to believe that something like this has happened so soon," he posted on his X account.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.45 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Hot and humid weather likely at isolated places over Gujarat, north Konkan and coastal Andhra Pradesh

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.7	19.0	Kozhikode	—	35.6	25.6
Ahmedabad	—	38.6	20.0	Kurnool	—	38.5	23.2
Aizawl	—	29.5	12.1	Lucknow	—	30.9	15.2
Allahabad	—	32.2	14.2	Madurai	—	37.0	20.1
Bengaluru	—	32.4	19.8	Mangaluru	—	33.4	23.8
Bhopal	—	34.4	14.6	Mumbai	—	38.7	22.6
Bhubaneswar	—	36.8	19.2	Mysuru	—	33.4	16.8
Chandigarh	—	31.4	13.8	New Delhi	—	33.2	15.7
Chennai	—	34.1	22.2	Patna	—	31.3	18.4
Coimbatore	—	34.4	20.6	Port Blair	—	31.5	22.2
Dehradun	—	31.2	13.6	Puducherry	—	31.6	21.7
Gangtok	—	19.2	11.1	Pune	—	37.7	20.8
Goa	—	32.9	24.7	Raipur	—	37.0	20.3
Guwahati	—	32.1	16.2	Ranchi	—	30.0	13.0
Hubballi	—	36.0	18.0	Shillong	—	21.5	10.0
Hyderabad	—	35.7	20.5	Shimla	—	27.2	13.4
Imphal	—	27.9	10.0	Srinagar	—	20.5	4.2
Jaipur	—	35.2	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	33.7	22.0
Kochi	—	31.4	26.0	Tiruchi	—	35.7	21.0
Kohima	—	21.7	11.0	Vijayawada	—	35.4	22.4
Kolkata	—	33.2	18.4	Visakhapatnam	—	31.6	23.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.79	102	30	101	130	
Bengaluru	.14	38	21	172	122	
Chennai	5	7	33	83	108	
Delhi	.44	26	28	221	318	
Hyderabad	5	9	56	112	125	
Kolkata	3	28	45	156	126	
Lucknow	6	37	46	156	165	
Mumbai	.23	.79	47	109	105	
Pune	.—	.61	22	208	157	
Visakhapatnam	.20	.85	18	—	122	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Cuttack, Odisha recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 308 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Bhilai, Chhattisgarh recorded a healthy AQI score of 33

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Army hosts multi-agency security dialogue to strengthen coordination

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Indian Army's Telangana and Andhra Sub-Area (TASA) headquarters organised a multi-agency security dialogue, 'Ex-TASA SHAKTI', as part of a Military-Civil Fusion initiative at the Secunderabad Military Station on March 3. The event brought together representatives from several security and civil agencies to deliberate on key security concerns and to strengthen coordination among stakeholders.

The platform aimed to enhance collaboration among security organisations in addressing emerging security challenges and evolving trends in disaster management and relief operations as well.

Major General Ajay Misra, General Officer Commanding (GOC) of TASA, highlighted the importance of inter-agency cooperation in dealing with complex security challenges.

"Such dialogues help strengthen collective preparedness," he said.

Officials from the Indian Air Force, Indian Navy, Telangana State Police, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), National Security Guard (NSG), Indian Railways, Railway Protection Force (RPF), Government Railway Police (GRP), and civil administration from Telangana and Andhra Pradesh participated in the dialogue.

Enforcement Directorate grills Sabarimala *Tantri* in gold theft case

KOCHI: The Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on Wednesday questioned Sabarimala *Tantri* (chief priest) Kandararu Rajeevaru in connection with the gold theft case. The questioning lasted for around four hours. The ED questioned him about his association with Unnikrishnan Potti, the prime accused.

Senior CPI(M) leader signals break with party after 63 years

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Senior Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader and former Minister G. Sudhakaran on Wednesday indicated a break with the party he served for 63 years.

In a Facebook post, Mr. Sudhakaran said he had not applied for membership scrutiny (an annual intra-party exercise) because he felt that the party's State and district (Alappuzha) leadership had "spurned and ridiculed him."

Mr. Sudhakaran's scathing attack on the party came on a day the CPI(M) State Secretariat met in Thiruvananthapuram to vet the list of prospective candidates for the 2026 Kerala Assembly election.

He alleged that State secretary M.V. Govindan had "dismissively mocked him" at a press conference, drawing derisive laughter from journalists. He said the CPI(M)'s district leadership had "walked the extra mile to wilfully isolate him" by not inviting him to public functions.

Meanwhile, CPI(M) general secretary M.A. Baby told reporters that Mr. Sudhakaran's Facebook post was "news" to him.

Government of Karnataka
Department Of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore
Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Indiranagara, Mysuru-570010, Telephone No : 0821-2424673/74, ,
Email- commr_amh@yahoo.in, Web : https://archaeology.karnataka.gov.in, https://nammakarnataka.in

Tender Notification Number: DAMH/CW/T-34/2025-26 Date: 02.03.2026

SHORT TENDER NOTIFICATION

On behalf of the Governor, Government of Karnataka, the department of Archaeology, Museum and Heritage, Mysuru has invited the itemwise tender for the 13 works of **DAMH/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT-159(Call-3), 165(Call-2), 166(Call-2), 181/Call-2 & 206 to 214.** The amount of Maximum **Rs. 104.21 lakhs** & minimum **Rs.9.97 lakhs** as per the tender documents KW-1, 2, 3 & 4 and Service tender **DAMH/2025-26/SE0036 & SE0037** under the tender documents. The tender documents can be obtained through **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/)** e-portal from date **03.03.2026** onwards.

Last date and time of any Queries for tender	11.03.2026, 17.00 hrs
Last date and time of tender submission	18.03.2026, 16.00 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Technical bid	20.03.2026, 16.30 hrs
Opening of Date and Time of Financial bid	23.03.2026, 11.00 hrs

Sd/- Commissioner
Department of Archaeology, Museums And Heritage, Mysore.
DIPR/MYSORE/SHIRDISAI/1782/2025-26

BENGALURU CENTRAL CITY CORPORATION
Executive Engineer (MPED & Transport), DCCC, Annex Building-2, Ground Floor, GBA, Head office Premises, NR Square, Bangalore 560 002.

No. EE/MPED&Transport/TEND/06/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(TWO COVER SYSTEM) (Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer, MPED-C, invites tenders on behalf of the Hon'ble Commissioner, BCCC, Bengaluru from eligible Tenderers for the construction of works detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Providing Interior Works to Additional Commissioner (Development), office 8th floor in Public Utility building Mayohall (Indent No:BCCC/2025-26/BD/WORK. INDENT236). **Approx. Amount put to tender (Excluding GST)** Rs. 44,36,941/-. **EMD :** Rs.88,800/-.

NOTE: 1) Last date for receipt of queries is **07.03.2026 before 4:00 PM** through Kpp Portal only. 2) Tenders must be submitted online through kpp Portal on or before 5:00 pm hours on **12.03.2026** and the opening of tenders will be as per the kpp Portal guidelines. 3) Technical Bids will be opened on the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in in the office of the Executive Engineer, MPED&Transport Division on **13.03.2026 at 5:00 pm.**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, MPED &Transport

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bund Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 52.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh, Parsi

ANNOUNCEMENT OF ONLINE APPLICATIONS FOR ADMISSION TO FREE INTEGRATED P.U.C WITH NEET/ IIT-JEE/K-CET/ICAR/CUET/CLAT/ CA-FOUNDATION EXAMINATION COACHING FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2026-27

Online Application

- Applications are invited from eligible candidates for free integrated P.U.C with NEET/IIT-JEE/K-CET/ICAR/CUET/CLAT/CA-FOUNDATION entrance exam coaching for the academic year 2026-27.

Timeline

Submission of online applications starts from: 05.03.2026.
Last Date for submission of online applications : 31.03.2026.

- Entirely residential program with free food, accommodation and other facilities.
- Exclusive two years entrance exam coaching with P.U.C from dedicated and expert faculty.
- Exclusive Girls and Boys Campus.

Eligibility

- Candidates must be domiciled in Karnataka State.
- Candidates must belong to religious minority community (Muslim, Christian, Jain, Buddhist, Sikh and Parsi).
- Candidates must belong to Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe and other backward classes.
- Candidates must be studying or passed 10th standard.
- The overall annual family income of the candidates must not exceed Rs.8.00 Lakhs.

Instructions for Applicants

- Applicants are advised to obtain information from the concerned Minority District Office, Minority Residential Pre-University Colleges, Minority Information Cente, Minority Welfare Department and submit their application as per the guidelines.
- For more details contact your concerned District Minority Officer, Minority Welfare Department and also contact Helpline Number: 8277799990.

Date: 05.03.2026
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru
DIPR/CP/5981/MAA/2025-26

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
(Water Resource Department)
Office of the, Executive Engineer, UKP, Rehabilitation Division No.4,Bilagi, Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.

No.UKP/EE/Reh.Dn.4/PB-2/Tdr-8/2025-26/1369 Date: 03-03-2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (3rd Call) (THROUGH KPPP)

As per the tender procedure of KTPP Act, Lump sum tenders are invited for **Providing Human Service On Outsource basis** from eligible contractors pertaining to **Indent No.0021 Rs: 140.23 lakhs** and **Indent No.0017 lakhs** in two cover system. The last date for submission of bid through e-procurement portal is **17-03--2026 up to 5.30pm**. Tender conditions & other details can be procured in e-procurement portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and from this office in working hours.

Special Note: 1) Contractor shall quote the total service charge required for one year in Rupees (INR) only.
2) For all contractors/representatives it is compulsory to attend the scheduled pre bid meeting.
3) Contractors to note all amendments & modifications time to time in E-procurement platform.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, UKP, Reh.Divn.No.4 Bilagi, Camp: Navanagar-Bagalkote.
DIPR/Bgk/630/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No:CEE/Tr(Op)ZM/SEE(O)/AEE-3/25-26/10140-41 Date:03.03.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal only)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works on Percentage rate tendering basis.

1. Bid Enquiry No: CEE/KPTCL/TZM/SEE(O)/AEE-3/2025-26/875 dtd: 02.03.2026 for Providing 11KV MCVCB Switchgears comprising of 12F by replacing existing age-old MCVCV (2IC+11F+1BC+1AP3) Switchgears at 66/11KV Kollegala, sub-station in Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajanagara District - on **PTK basis.**

2. Bid Enquiry No: CEE/KPTCL/TZM/SEE(O)/ AEE-3/2025-26/876 dtd: 02.03.2026 for Replacement of single tension & suspension insulator strings by double tension & suspension insulator strings from Tower No 56 to 59 in existing 66kV Madhuvanahlli-Hannur MC line which is passing over the RS Doddi residential area limit in the jurisdiction of TLM section Shivasamudram. Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajanagara District - on **TTK Basis.**

3. Bid Enquiry No: CEE/KPTCL/TZM/SEE(O)/ AEE-3/2025-26/877 dtd: 02.03.2026 for Strengthening of 11kV Bus bar at 66/11Kv sub-station Ramapura.

The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website:**https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyper link 'E Procurement KPTCL' OR https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on or after **06.03.2026.** Any other details can be had from the office of the undersigned during office hours.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, (Electy.,) Transmission (Operation Zone), KPTCL, Prasarana Bhavana, Ground Floor, FTS Compound, Mysuru..

Bullying Anthropic

The U.S.'s demands for maximum flexibility on AI use are dangerous

Over the last few days, the U.S. Department of Defence unceremoniously cast out the AI firm Anthropic, which develops the coding assistant Claude, and designated the firm a "supply chain risk", the kind of cattle branding reserved for firms that are compromised by hostile foreign states. The reason was simple: Anthropic refused to relent on allowing its tools to be used for widespread domestic surveillance and fully autonomous weaponry. The high-octane conflict with the U.S. government – which accused Anthropic of following a "woke" and "radical" agenda – is a shocking escalation, despite prior concessions that would allow the U.S.'s defence establishment's use of Claude, which helps create and update code bases quickly. The conflict also sends a chilling message – a great power can do anything, with or without safeguards, to attain a strategic upper hand. This is a dangerous message to send in a multipolar world where shared standards around safety are increasingly difficult to achieve.

This is no longer the world of the Bletchley Park AI safety summit. It was a gathering that acknowledged the rapidly growing power of AI systems, and the shared global imperative to ensure that high-stakes risks be mitigated. What resonance does that worthy message have when the country on the frontier of AI development so publicly disavows any form of safety control for war, at a time when a reckless attack on Iran – with, reportedly, some assistance from Claude – is grinding on? Firms need to show some backbone when dealing with outrageous demands that could have chilling consequences in their home country and around the world. After all, if the U.S. demands the policy space for domestic surveillance in such a full-throated fashion, where does that leave countries where infiltrating the political opposition with spyware on their phones is already the norm? Anthropic showed this backbone, and it deserved the solidarity of its peers. Sadly, that is not what happened, as ChatGPT maker OpenAI appeared to give the U.S. defence department the flexibility it sought just hours after Anthropic became persona non grata. Despite OpenAI's assurances that its agreement provides key safeguards, AI safety has been harmed, with the other superpower and a host of middle powers around the world watching closely. Firms may not be the ideal characters to take a stand – taking into consideration, after all, their profit motivations – but as strong institutions are worn down around the world, there are few places to look to for leadership on safety. When a firm with billions of dollars at stake says 'no', it is not a promising sign of things to come when another steps in to say 'maybe, yes'.

Reckless wreckers

Damaging nuclear facilities under an unstable regime poses great risks

Nuclear facilities have faced unprecedented threats of late. Since its capture by Russian forces in 2022, Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant has faced repeated shelling and drone strikes. While Russia wished to be the sole nuclear-armed successor to the Soviet Union, Israel has viewed Iran's nuclear programme as an existential threat and has attacked its weapons sites since 2024. In 2025, the U.S. launched targeted strikes against Fordow and Natanz, which enrich uranium, and Isfahan, a fuel cycle complex. U.S. President Donald Trump claimed they were "obliterated" but the IAEA found that the enriched uranium stockpile was largely intact at Isfahan. On March 2, the IAEA had said that the Bushehr and Tehran reactors had not been hit or damaged until then, although strikes on March 3 surfaced reports of damage to the Bushehr airport (according to Iran's state media) and again in Natanz. The broader pattern of attacking nuclear facilities is worrisome. Aside from overt attempts, at least one hacking attempt has breached the National Nuclear Security Administration, which manages the U.S.'s nuclear stockpile, while ransomware groups have targeted global energy firms and Brazil's state nuclear operator. The Geneva Conventions prohibit states from endangering nuclear facilities if they release "dangerous forces" but neither the U.S. nor Israel seems mindful of the risks. Iran has also accused the IAEA of spying for Israel.

Physically destroying a facility only removes one layer of risk; the humanitarian and environmental effects are often intractable. A damaged reactor core or spent fuel pool could release caesium-137, a long-lived isotope that causes acute radiation sickness and contaminates land for decades. Radioactive particles can be carried by winds, affecting global food security. Damaging nuclear facilities overseen by an unstable regime also risks loss of custody of enriched uranium. Such strikes do not achieve a strategic resolution and could in fact accelerate Iran's resolve, marked by its shift of assets to deeper, more clandestine facilities. Military force also destroyed the diplomatic and verification frameworks required for long-term safety, leaving negotiations as the safest way to restore stability in the region. Iran is already facing 60% inflation and the U.S. can trade sanctions relief for IAEA monitoring. Iran has also finalised long-term deals with Russia and China, in return securing air defences and navigation systems to negate western advantages, and bringing Tehran back to the table could also reduce its dependence on these burgeoning partnerships. Conversely, military action risks refugee exodus from a population of 93 million, asymmetric retaliation against the U.S.'s Gulf bases, and the inalienable threat of nuclear disaster.

Constitutional values over star power in Tamil Nadu

Srinivasan Ramani

The Tamil Nadu Assembly election is barely weeks away, and the seat-sharing deal between the ruling Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Congress has been sealed, with the Grand Old Party's high command agreeing to finalise the pact. This puts to rest what had been a dangerous temptation within sections of Congress – the idea that an alliance with actor-politician Vijay's Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) could be a viable alternative to Congress's long-standing ties with the DMK.

This idea was cultivated by some second-rung leaders in the Congress for vituperative personal reasons and used by other partymen frustrated over seat-sharing issues as a bargaining chip, bringing the talks between the parties to a precipice of collapse. The alliance held, but the episode deserves examination, not just as a tactical question but also as one which is core to the meaning of progressive politics in Tamil Nadu and what is at stake to preserve it.

A new party and its political concerns

It is imperative to understand the nature of the fledgling force that the TVK is and what it stands for, while evaluating the Congress's near-dalliance with it. On September 27, 2025, 41 people, many from poor and marginalised backgrounds, were killed in a crowd crush at a TVK rally in Karur, central Tamil Nadu. The facts of the TVK's failure in organising the rally are not in dispute. For months, its rallies had been designed primarily to showcase frenzied crowds rather than communicate any substantive political message. Mr. Vijay's arrival in Karur was intentionally delayed by nearly seven hours to increase the crowd size. The organisers grossly underestimated attendance, expecting 10,000 people but the turnout exceeded over 25,000. The crowd waited for hours without basic provisions before the actor-politician spoke briefly and hastily left the venue, as did several of his party's lieutenants following the crowd crush.

Rather than accepting responsibility for what had happened, the TVK flooded social media with conspiracy theories suggesting sabotage, despite there being no evidence of this. Mr. Vijay himself made these claims. When the Madras High Court constituted a Special Investigation Team in October to investigate the case and made pointed observations about the TVK's conduct, the party successfully obtained a Supreme Court of India order transferring the probe to the Central Bureau of Investigation. During questioning in January 2026, Mr. Vijay claimed that he was "not responsible" for the stampede.

The party relies on whipping up mass hysteria as a means of mobilisation and promoting a personality cult rather than ideology. There is the token presence of visages of leaders such as Periyar, Ambedkar, and Kamaraj in backdrops at its rallies, but the party pays lip service to them. Its political project has been built more like a fan club than a democratic party. This is not a party that any force which is committed to constitutional values can meaningfully align with.

> The challenges in the Congress-DMK seat-pact discussions underscore that governance and alliance cohesion matter more than mere celebrity-driven political spectacle

As this writer has previously argued in these pages, Tamil Nadu stands at a pivotal economic moment. It is India's second largest economy and is pursuing a transition from a middle-income economy to a high-value, innovation-driven model – a shift that requires sustained investment in research and development and diversified exports, which is possible only with good governance capacity and fiscal autonomy.

Politics and prosperity

The State's economic success has been built on the base of a distinct political culture. Its bipolar Dravidian system, for all its flaws of patronage and competitive populism, produced a governance model that combined industrialisation with welfare, and the DMK-led Secular Progressive Alliance, with its internal structure of mutual accountability between the Congress, the Left, the Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), and the DMK, is well placed to deepen that model. The alliance's sweep of all 39 Lok Sabha seats in the 2024 general election was a consequence of the ideological coherence made possible by each party shedding old antipathies toward the others.

The Congress, by staying the course, has ensured that this coherence holds – at least for now. But the episode has exposed how fragile the structure can be when one of its pillars even entertained the thought that the alliance was dispensable. The DMK-led alliance is not merely a State-level arrangement; it is a critical link in the national opposition to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s centralising, majoritarian project. It is about demonstrating that an alternative to the BJP's politics of social engineering and minority-bashing can be not just morally necessary but also electorally viable. Had the Congress walked away, it would have broken a vital connection in the INDIA bloc, with Tamil Nadu being one of its strongest links.

What makes this alliance and Tamil Nadu's political culture more broadly worth fighting for is also the nature of voter choice in the State. Yes, a substantial number of the State's voters remain beholden to patronage and clientelism. But, there exists a significant and politically aware section of the electorate that has been shaped by decades of Dravidian mobilisation, rationalist movements, and a vibrant civil society spanning literature, cinema and popular culture. It stands with parties that are committed to social justice and decentralised power (federalism), and is willing to judge governments based on governance and performance rather than a mere pandering to identities of religion and caste.

This is in stark contrast to what is thriving in States across the north and west, where social engineering and the stoking of hate toward minorities have proven sufficient for parties to win elections, regardless of their record on jobs, public services or institutional integrity. Tamil Nadu has, thus far, resisted this straightjacketing of voter choices into narrow communal binaries, a resistance that is one of the State's most valuable political assets.

Battle of ideologies

The promise of Tamil Nadu's relatively progressive politics is seen in the linking of welfare policies, even direct benefit transfers, with accountability for governance practices and government responsiveness. This is possible only when the political contest is predominantly one of principles and clear-cut ideologies, alongside being a referendum on governance. This is why governments have alternated between the Dravidian parties – the DMK and the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) – and their respective alliances, a competitive dynamic in which constitutional values such as secularism and social justice have never come under fundamental threat or question.

Yet, even as this case for ideological coherence is made, there are worrying signs within the DMK-led alliance. The alliance's expansion to include the Desiya Murpokku Dravida Kazhagam (DMDK), and O. Panneerselvam and his supporters, raise legitimate questions. The DMDK, drawing on a residual vote base from its founder, the late actor Vijayakanth, and O. Panneerselvam, a three-time Chief Minister under the AIADMK, whose political career has been shaped by patronage politics and a near-obsequious reliance on the BJP rather than ideological commitment, do not naturally fit into an alliance whose core constituents share a framework of social justice, secularism, and democratic accountability.

The logic behind these inductions is to do with realism and the additive accretion of support from sections backing these parties and individuals. In the short term, especially in a likely four-way contest with the TVK and Seeman's Naam Tamilar Katchi drawing votes, this arithmetic makes sense. But in the medium term, alliances that dilute ideology for marginal electoral gains risk affecting the distinctiveness of the progressive formation.

The DMK, for its part, must recognise that keeping the alliance's ideological core intact requires more than accommodating new entrants. This demands a new compact with its existing partners, one that shares not merely seats but also governance responsibilities, especially in local bodies.

In the end, the Congress made the right choice. Its future in Tamil Nadu and its national relevance as a force for progressive politics lies in strengthening its partnership with the DMK and the alliance's ideological core, rather than chasing the mirage of a personality cult. The 41 people who died in Karur remain a reminder of what personality cult politics costs. Tamil Nadu deserves a contest in which constitutional values are not subordinated to star power, unlike in a national polity increasingly defined by communal mobilisation.

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Climate risks must prompt international legal reforms

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So far, states have focused on addressing climate change's biophysical impacts and finding burden-sharing formulae that avoid serious socio-economic harm to developing and least-developed countries. The grave consequences of climate change are likely to prompt a renegotiation of some of the fundamentals of international law, including permanent sovereignty over natural resources (PSNR), requirement of territory for statehood, and unsettling of maritime zones.

The principle of PSNR is a fundamental right of states and peoples, which represents the resolve of developing countries to attain economic independence. Under the PSNR, a state has the right to extract fossil fuels above and below ground. The urgency to restrict global average temperature below 1.5° Celsius is giving rise to the demand among many states, scholars and policymakers to phase out fossil fuel. Scholarly writings increasingly support a Fossil-Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty to keep large swathes of fossil fuels that remain in the ground

The issue of fossil fuels, first raised at COP 28 and again at COP 30 – even outside the formal agenda – highlights growing momentum for a phase-out. The developing countries may accept limited obligations impinging on PSNR towards a common concern of mankind but these must not be permanent or disregard the interests of high fossil-fuel-dependent nations. The limited obligations should be accompanied by developed countries providing sufficient finance and transferring carbon-neutral 'best available technologies' to developing nations

Climate change and territory

International law specifies that territory is a necessary prerequisite for statehood. The 1933 Montevideo Convention in Uruguay established the four criteria of statehood – territory, permanent population, government, and the capacity to enter into relations with another state – as the benchmark for state recognition.

> Climate change may drive a renegotiation of key international law principles, including statehood territory and maritime zones

Sea-level rise (SLR) threatening small island states poses the question of their continued statehood. Although the presumption of state continuity is unquestionably part of customary international law, several states are not categorical about its application to SLR. The International Court of Justice, in its advisory opinion, has said that once a state is established, the disappearance of one of its constituent elements would not necessarily entail the loss of its statehood. Scholars have described the ICJ's opinion on this aspect as a very modest legal claim.

In 2023, the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) declared that international law does not contemplate its demise in the context of climate change-related SLR. Even the Montevideo Convention does not mention how much territory is to be lost to lose statehood. James Crawford, an authority on creation of state, is of the view that while a state must possess territory, there is no rule specifying a minimum size. Despite these arguments and legal claims, statehood generally remains precarious and often borderline.

The unprecedented risks to be faced by small-island states must prompt the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) to use the forum of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to apply equitable principles, addressing gaps in existing law beyond strict legal rules

Climate change-induced migration

In international law, the status of people who are likely to move to another country in the context of SLR is unclear. Such people also lose protections and benefits which accrued to them in their own country. The 1951 Refugee Convention defines a refugee as someone who moves to another country, or is unwilling to seek protection from their country of nationality, due to a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. As climate refugees do not fit in the 1951 ambit, Frank Biermann, an expert on Earth System Governance, suggests a separate independent legal and political regime created under a Protocol to the UNFCCC on the recognition, protection and resettlement of climate refugees. Such a protocol could build on the political support from almost all countries as parties to the UNFCCC and the Paris Agreement.

Unsettling of maritime zones

SLR is likely to unsettle baseline (the legal expression of coast), which will correspondingly affect other maritime zones such as territorial sea, contiguous zone, exclusive economic zone and continental shelf. The adverse scenario has prompted an increasing number of states, especially Pacific Island states and the other small island states to declare the existing baselines as permanent, which means that coastal states do not need to adapt to their existing baseline due to SLR.

This approach is at odds with another approach which a state is permitted under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) to adopt (ambulatory baseline) in the context of SLR. Accepting either of these approaches would require changes in the interpretation of UNCLOS rules.

Thus, climate change-induced risks posed to the international legal order need to be renegotiated by the states on a priority basis.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A war beyond borders

Just a few days of strikes on Iran have already shown serious global consequences. From the loss of scores of lives in Iran, Lebanon and Israel, to flights being cancelled putting livelihoods in jeopardy and an energy crisis looming large with Saudi Arabia and Iraq suspending their oil operations, there is much trouble ahead. That India has crude oil stocks to last for 25 days is also a double-edged sword. The irony is striking: U.S. President Donald Trump, who mediated failed Russia-Ukraine talks, is now caught in a 'prolonged' war. The inability of the United Nations to stop conflicts or hold nations accountable stems from its reliance on member funding and lack of enforcement authority. If those in the Global South, Africa and Europe stand united against American 'imperialism', the U.S.'s sanctions, tariffs and bellicose posture cannot stand in the way of diplomacy for a just world.

Prabhu Raj R.,
Bengaluru

U.S. President Donald Trump is fighting a war against Iran with a cowboy mindset and misplaced bravado without realising the tragic consequences of war. He is basically an anarchist and an outlaw who cares little for international laws or the authority of global bodies such as the United Nations. He is fighting an illegal war without mandatory Congress approval. He is safe in the distant United States but his allies in West Asia suffer the consequences with missile attacks from Iran. The economies of many countries will be hit hard by soaring oil prices. In his mistaken thinking, bombing is his obtuse solution to all problems. Perhaps this absurd war is being staged, as some observers say, to shield himself from the devastating exposure of the Epstein Files.

Matthew Adukanil,
Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Lutyens and the politics of symbolism

Sobhana K. Nair

On February 23, Edwin Lutyens's bust was removed as part of the government's ongoing decolonisation drive. In its place now stands the bust of C. Rajagopalachari, the first Indian Governor-General of independent India. Prime Minister Narendra Modi framed the move as an act of "leaving behind symbols of slavery," while the Opposition, predictably, criticised it in familiar and unimaginative terms. This is not the first time a statue – or in this case, a bust– has been taken down. Such acts are attempts to wreak vengeance on the past and rewrite the future.

There is no need to shed tears for Lutyens or what he represented. He is perhaps the only architect in modern history whose name has, for nearly a century, been synonymous with an entire city. Pierre Charles L'Enfant, who designed Washington D.C., has a handful of city landmarks named after him, such as a plaza, a metro station and promenades, in the city he shaped. His name as the city's architect was erased and resurrected only a century later. Today he lies buried in the Arlington cemetery overlooking the city, where he was interred 84 years after his death. Walter Burley Griffin, the Chicago architect who planned Canberra has a lake and a 276-km road named for him, but not a city.

The move to India

Lutyens was an ambitious man. At 19, with little architectural training, he struck out on his own. He was convinced of his talent; he was also aided by his social connections. His wife, Lady Emily, was the daughter of the Earl of Lytton, the former Viceroy of India. Lutyens had to turn to India because England was changing; an assertive middle class was elbowing the aristocracy out of power. High taxes on the wealthy introduced in 1909 meant fewer and fewer country houses to build. However, he hated India and was uncharitable towards Indians. An unrepentant racist, he wrote to his wife Emily: "The Taj by moonlight becomes so bald and indefinite... It is wonderful but it is not architecture, and its beauty begins where architecture ceases to be." This was hardly an isolated remark. In another letter, Lutyens complaining about the ineptitude of Indian craftsmen, wrote mockingly, "... It will be difficult to find the men – Government ought to breed them! A job for the Eugenic societies!"

The Lutyens legacy

Lutyens was one of a three-member committee sent from London to select the site for New Delhi and later design it. When he arrived in Delhi, he had no experience in town planning. He was, fundamentally, a country-house architect who rose to prominence partly through brilliance and partly through influential social connections. He was not the sole architect of the capital; he shared responsibility with his friend-turned-rival Herbert Baker. He did not design the bungalows currently occupied by Parliamentarians that bear his name. Lord Hardinge, who spent months negotiating with Lutyens and the London bureaucracy on Delhi's design, has been erased from the city – Hardinge Avenue became Tilak Marg in the 1960s.

Lutyens ultimately secured near-exclusive credit for the city's design not just because he was talented, but because he was an exceptional public-relations strategist. His friendship with the publisher of *Country Life*, a magazine devoted to English architectural beauty, ensured that nearly every house he designed received glowing coverage. Robert Byron's effusive praise of the Viceroy's House (now Rashtrapati Bhavan) in the 1931 *Architectural Review* further elevated his standing, even as Byron dismissed buildings such as the Parliament House, designed by Baker. But, there is no denying Lutyens's brilliance: he completed roughly 800 projects, an enviable body of work in both scale and variety.

Lutyens ultimately secured near-exclusive credit for the city's design not just because he was talented, but because he was an exceptional public-relations strategist

Political jousting

It is unlikely that the government went into such minutiae before deciding to remove his bust. In the last century, his name has transitioned from an adjective to a pejorative. Any English-speaking liberal elite who benefitted from the old order is marked as 'Lutyens Elite'. Removing the Lutyens bust is also a measure of shadow-boxing with this elite. The decision to put Rajagopalachari's bust in his place is politically expedient for the ruling party in view of the upcoming Tamil Nadu Assembly polls, especially when it is supplemented by the narrative that Rajaji had been ignored by the previous Congress governments.

Our pugilistic public discourse, of course, demands that we pick a side. The Opposition's response here was banal –lamenting that "whatever is left of Lutyens' design history will be broken down" and folded into a narrative of purging colonial remnants.

Yes, preserving history matters. Successive governments have had a shameful track record with preserving history. Whatever monuments remain, often exist without any context. For the British did not build New Delhi out of generosity. They shifted the capital from Calcutta to consolidate the new King's authority and manage the political fallout from the partition of Bengal. Similarly, the Narendra Modi government did not begin redeveloping New Delhi during the COVID pandemic because there was a pressing urban need. Both the British and the Modi government were driven by the same impulse: to stamp their imprint on the city. Thus, the government's "decolonisation" effort is less about historical justice and more about shaping headlines. And that, ultimately, is the real story here – not Lutyens, but the politics of symbolism.

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Congress stuck in a quota matrix

The recruitment for government jobs in Karnataka has stirred a hornet's nest

STATE OF PLAY

Sharath S. Srivatsa
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The announcement of the Congress government in Karnataka to have one of the largest recruitment drives in the State to fill up 56,432 posts to placate restive, unemployed youth has brought to the fore the complexities of reservation and has sharply divided Dalit communities. The government has announced that recruitment needs to be done with a cap on reservation at 50% that existed prior to December 2022. It has also given up on the newly provided internal reservation among the 101 Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State. These two decisions have not gone down well.

The reservation complex

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government in 2022 through the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of Seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or Posts in the Services under the State) Act, 2022, had hiked reservations for SCs from 15% to 17% and for Scheduled Tribes (STs) from 3% to 7%. With 32% reserved for Other Backward Classes (OBCs), the total reservation in Karnataka went up to 56%. While this has been questioned in the High Court, experts have also pointed out that increasing reservation without Constitutional backing will lead to legal hurdles.

With multiple cases in the Karnataka High Court – first against breaching the reservation quota the Supreme Court had capped at 50% to 56%, and later against the internal reservation matrix announced by the State government – hiring had slowed down in the State. Moreover, in between, the State government had paused the hiring process for about a year to enable the H.N. Nagamohan Das Commission to collect empirical data and recommend the internal reservation matrix.

However, under pressure and amid protests by unemployed youth, the government took the decision to restart the hiring process within 30 days, but the Government Order capped reservation at 50% and did not account for internal quota, citing the ongoing cases in the High Court.

Ironically, the Congress government took the decision to not implement internal reservation in the current recruitment cycle on the day the Governor gave his assent to the Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025. It provides that the overall 17% reservation for the 101 SCs will be divided proportionally across three categories. Even before this Legislative action, nomadic communities among the SCs had approached the High Court, questioning the reservation matrix.

The Congress in its 2023 manifesto had promised the implementation of internal reservation. Now, stung by the government's decision, the Dalit left communities, which had fought for internal reservation for nearly four decades, have asked the government to fix internal quota within the 15% (before the 2022 Act) before any recruitment process is commenced. They argue that the benefits of reservation in public recruitment and education have been cornered by relatively well-off Dalit right (Holeya and other castes) communities and the 'touchable' castes of Bhovi, Korama, Koracha and Lambani. The Federation of Madiga Sanghas (comprising Dalit left communities) has identified Dalit right castes as those "opposed to internal reservation" (Left and right here are mere categories and not ideologies).

Cabinet divide

The issue has also divided the Cabinet with Dalit right Ministers arguing against the internal reservation, prompting the Dalit left community leaders to seek the resignation of Social Welfare Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, a Dalit right leader, for being "biased." The two Dalit left Ministers in the Cabinet are also upset and have questioned Chief Minister Siddaramaiah over the "injustice." In Karnataka, Dalit right groups are seen as loyal to the Congress, while Dalit left communities are seen as having drifted to the BJP.

The move has also upset the STs who have issues with the overall reduction in reservation. Though the government has said that it will reserve an additional 2% to SCs and 4% for STs – subject to the outcome in Court – the STs see it as "eyewash" and argue that around 3,385 posts would go to the general category in the current recruitment cycle.

Stuck in this reservation vortex, the Congress government is likely to tread cautiously as the decision could later upset poll calculations, especially in north Karnataka where the ST and Dalit left population is high.

The quiet demographic revolution unfolding in India

India, long viewed as the archetype of a 'high-fertility developing country', has quietly become a relatively low-fertility society

DATA POINT

Bhargav B.S.
Arjun Jayadev

For much of the late 20th century, discussions of India's future were framed by a single anxiety: population growth. The assumption was that rapid fertility would outpace the economy's ability to generate food, infrastructure, and public services. The infamous "Population Bomb" thesis of Paul and Anne Ehrlich was a key text that informed public policy for decades.

Over the last 25 years, India has experienced a fertility transition of extraordinary speed. Data from successive National Family Health Surveys (NFHS) show Total Fertility Rate (TFR) falling from levels near four children per woman in the 1990s to around replacement level, with most States now at or below 2.1 children per woman.

The chart provides the sharpest indication of this. India, long viewed as the archetype of a 'high-fertility developing country', has quietly become a relatively low-fertility society. In the NFHS-1 and 2 periods, many States reported TFRs between three and five children per woman, and some – particularly in the Northeast – recorded even higher levels. By NFHS-3 and NFHS-4, fertility had dropped substantially. But the most striking change appears in NFHS-5, where a majority of the States cluster below replacement fertility. The dispersion of fertility across States has also narrowed, indicating convergence towards a low-fertility norm across India's regions.

One can categorise the States by their TFRs into three tiers – low, medium and high. In NFHS-1 and 2, there is a clear bunching of southern States exhibiting lower fertility rates relative to central, northern and northeastern States. However, starting from NFHS-3, these tiers get more heterogeneous, where States from other regions also begin to move into lower fertility categories.

The northeastern States (except Tripura), Uttar Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Haryana, Punjab, and Rajasthan show the highest declines in fertility across the five rounds. Of the States that had relatively low fertility rates to begin with, Karnataka, West Bengal, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Odisha have the highest decline.

Significant transformation

Almost all scholars of the phenomenon have pointed to rising women's education and delayed marriage as proximate causes. As educational attainment rises, the expected returns to labour market participation increase, while the opportunity cost of early and repeated childbearing grows. Where the labour market offers meaningful opportunities, fertility tends to fall faster and where employment remains precarious, the transition proceeds more unevenly.

A second factor could be the diffusion of new family-size norms through migration, urbanisation, and media exposure. The many decades of family planning messages may have contributed to such changes. Once smaller families become the social standard, fertility decline accelerates even where income levels or institutional conditions lag behind.

Third, the decline reflects public health successes. Improvements in child survival reduced the need for 'precautionary fertility', the historical pattern in which families had more children to insure against high mortality. Vaccination programmes, maternal health services, and nutritional interventions have quietly reshaped reproductive behaviour by increasing the confidence that children will survive into adulthood.

However, not all the reasons for this decline may be positive. It is also possible that the rising cost of raising children is a factor. As schooling, healthcare, and housing, become increasingly monetised, children shift from being contributors to household production toward becoming intensive investment projects. Families that once relied on informal social arrangements now face a world in which upward mobility requires substantial expenditure on education and skill formation.

Myriad consequences

The first is that there is a "demographic dividend," in which the share of working-age people with low dependency ratios creates the potential for faster growth. Without a structural shift towards labour-absorbing industrialisation and public investment, the dividend risks being squandered.

The second surrounds the political economy of fertility. Southern and western States, where fertility has been below replacement level for some time, are moving more rapidly towards aging populations. This divergence is likely to reshape patterns of internal migration, fiscal transfers, and political representation over the coming decades. The movement of younger workers from relatively poorer, higher-fertility regions to aging, lower-fertility regions may become one of the defining structural features of India's internal economy.

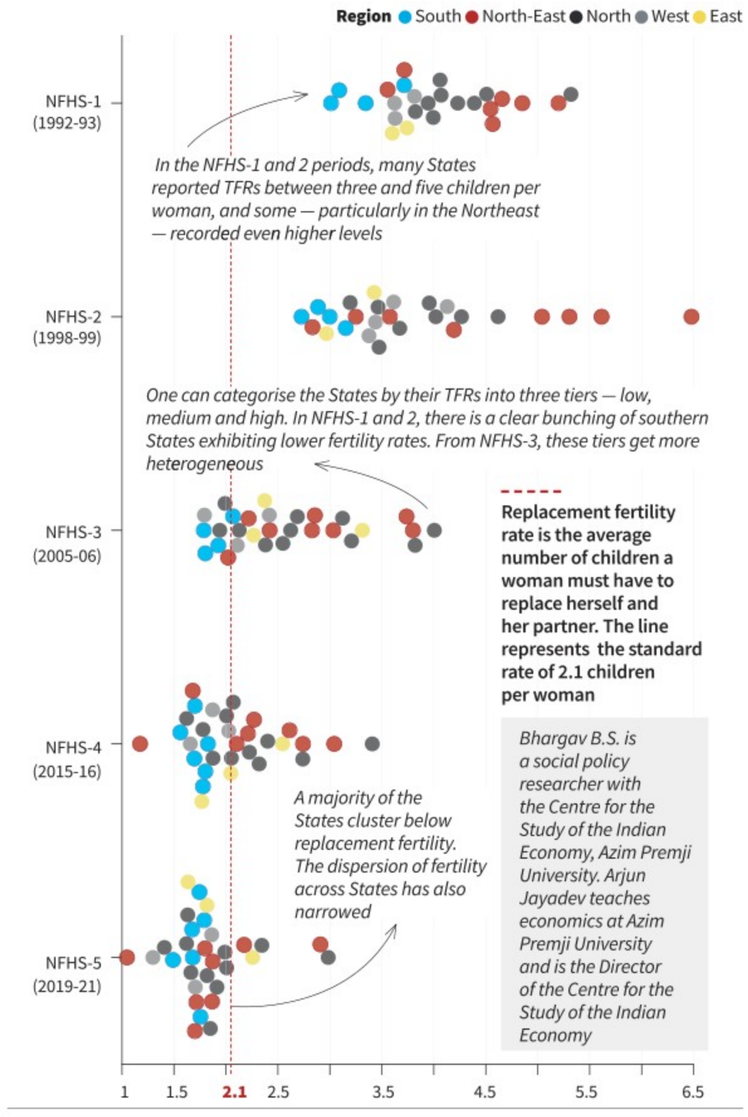
For decades, population control programmes occupied a central place in development planning. Today, the more pressing need is the opposite: building the institutional foundations for a low-fertility society. This includes childcare, pension systems capable of supporting an aging population, healthcare systems oriented toward chronic rather than infectious disease burdens, and urban infrastructure able to accommodate continued migration and household transformation.

India's demographic story is therefore no longer one of unchecked population growth. The key policy concerns now will be those of employment, aging, migration, and the social organisation of care.

Bunching up

The data for the chart were sourced from the National Family Health Survey by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. Views expressed in this article are those of the authors and do not reflect the views of Azim Premji University or its affiliates.

Chart: The chart shows region-wise Total Fertility Rate (TFR) across National Family Health Surveys. Each dot represents an Indian State or Union Territory, and its colour represents which region it is a part of



Bhargav B.S. is a social policy researcher with the Centre for the Study of the Indian Economy, Azim Premji University. Arjun Jayadev teaches economics at Azim Premji University and is the Director of the Centre for the Study of the Indian Economy

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO MARCH 5, 1976

Attractions for U.S. tourists in India

Madras, March 4: India was one of the most promising destination points for future travel by American tourists, Mr. Dale Remington, President, New York Travel Writers Association, and Producer and Director of an American Television team, said to-day.

Mr. Remington is on a 12-day tour of India as one of a 13-member group of American travel agents, travel writers and producers.

The team led by Mr. M. Chudesama, Public Relations Manager, Air-India, New York, arrived in Bombay on February 28. Seven members of the team including Mr. James Vito, TV cameraman, left to-day for Trivandrum, after a three-day visit to the city.

Mr. Remington told newsmen at the airport that so far people in the United States had been given mostly a negative impression of India – about starvation, poverty and other aspects. But his team wanted to show a real picture of the rural folk, how they lived and worked, depicting many facets of life. In Bombay, they had taken shots of horse races and in Madras they had made some TV films on pottery making, day-to-day life of fishermen, the monuments at Mahabalipuram, and the Snake Park at Guindy, which was being run very well.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO MARCH 5, 1926

Frantic scenes in New York exchange

New York, March 4: Indescribable scenes were witnessed at the Stock Market as a result of a record slump in railway shares, hundreds and thousands of which were freely offered. Trading in the afternoon was done at a terrific pace, there being over 2 million sales during the first three hours alone. In the general scramble to execute orders brokers performed antics like dancing dervishes almost tearing off each other's clothing as they struggled around the various trading posts. Meanwhile tickers rattled at full speed but even after the first hour they were 18 minutes behind the market. Outside the brokerage offices were jammed with anxious crowd which fearfully watched the furious battle of bulls and bears indicated on the boards by a thousand clerks, many of whom had been working all night.

From Page One

Bihar may get new BJP CM, Nitish to enter RS

"If Mr. Kumar relinquishes his post, it will be a regime change in the State after 20 years," said political commentator Nawal Kishore Choudhary.

BJP sources said that the chief ministerial candidate from their party would either be from the Backward Class (27% of the population) or Extremely Backward Class (36%). "The party cannot afford to have its CM from upper caste category which is 15.5% in number according to the latest caste survey in Bihar," said Mr. Choudhary.

Top JD(U) leaders, including party's working president Sanjay Kumar Jha, Vijay Choudhary and Union Minister and party's Munger MP Rajeev Ranjan Singh (Lalan Singh), held meetings at their residences and at the Chief Minister's residence.

In the last polls, the ruling NDA won 202 seats with the JD(U) getting 85 and the BJP bagging 89 seats. The Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) won 19 seats and smaller parties such as Rashtriya Lok Morcha, led by Upendra Kushwaha, bagged four and Hindustani Awam Morcha (Secular) won five seats. In the 243-member State Assembly, a candidate needs the support of 41 MLAs to secure a Rajya Sabha seat. Of the total 16 Rajya Sabha seats from Bihar, five seats are falling vacant on April 9.

The terms of two JD(U) MPs Harivansh Narayan Singh, also Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and Ram Nath Thakur, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, are ending. NDA ally and Rashtriya Lok Morcha chief Mr. Kushwaha's tenure is ending along with those of two members from the Opposition bloc – RJD's Prem Chand Gupta and Amarendra Dhari Singh.

The NDA needs the support of three more MLAs and the RJD that of six legislators to bag the fifth seat for which Mr. Kushwaha's name is said to have been finalised by the NDA. Sources from the RJD camp said the party will field Amarendra Dhari Singh as the fifth candidate.

(With inputs from Nistula Hebbar)

India backs a Myanmar-led peace process: Jaishankar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India supports a "Myanmar-led and Myanmar-owned" peace process that can deliver lasting peace and development for all in the Southeast Asian country, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said on Wednesday.

A military-backed party had won the Myanmar general election in January.

Mr. Jaishankar was speaking virtually at the inauguration of the Sarsobeikman Literary Centre building in the heart of Yangon. The building has been constructed with New Delhi's assistance.

He highlighted the importance India attaches to its ties with Myanmar saying the country lies at the confluence of New Delhi's three key foreign policy priorities – 'Neighbourhood First', 'Act East', and MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).

Mr. Jaishankar said India and Myanmar have been bound together for centuries by spirituality, kinship and geography, as well as by language and literature.

180 flights cancelled amid growing West Asia conflict

Air India Express announced that its services to Muscat will remain operational; Air India says it will deploy additional aircraft to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris to cater to the high demand

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI/KOLKATA

Around 180 flights from three metro airports, Mumbai, Delhi and Bengaluru, were cancelled on Wednesday owing to airspace restrictions amid the ongoing conflict in West Asia, sources said.

While 93 flights – including 48 departures and 45 arrivals – were cancelled at the Mumbai airport, the Delhi airport saw 52 cancellations – 25 departures and 27 arrivals – on Wednesday. Various airlines operating at Bengaluru airport did not operate 34 flights, including 18 arrivals, sources said.

Sources said Mumbai Airport handled eight repatriation flights operated by both domestic and international airlines on Wednesday. While SpiceJet operated two repatriation flights to Mumbai from Fujairah, Air India operated a flight to the city from Dubai. Gulf carrier Emirates operated three such flights from Dubai to Mumbai while Gulf Air and Royal Jordanian operated one each to the financial capital from Amman (Jordan) and Dammam (Saudi Arabia).

Safe and sound: Passengers reunite with family members after arriving on a flight via Dubai at Delhi Airport on Wednesday. ANI

The Civil Aviation Ministry on Tuesday had said that 1,221 flights by Indian carriers and 388 flights by foreign carriers had been cancelled (till March 3) due to the ongoing situation.

At least five incoming and outgoing flights to and from West Asia were cancelled at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport in Kolkata on Wednesday till 1.30 p.m., officials said. The affected routes included key cities like Doha, Dubai, and Abu Dhabi. Among the cancelled arrivals were Qatar Airways flight QR050 from Doha and Emirates flight EK570. Three outbound flights cancelled were Air Arabia flight 3L0167 to Abu Dhabi, Qatar Airways flight QR0541 to Doha, and Emirates flight EK571 to Dubai.

IndiGo on Wednesday said it cancelled over 500 flights to West Asia and select international destinations from February 28 to March 3.

Special flights

Meanwhile, Air India on Wednesday announced the deployment of additional flights to Toronto, Frankfurt and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) to cater to the high demand amid the crises. Air India's low-cost subsidiary Air India Express announced that its air services to Muscat will remain operational, besides mounting additional flights between Muscat and Delhi and Mumbai.

The airline will operate three additional flights between Delhi and Toronto from March 5 to 11, besides adding three flights between Delhi and Frankfurt, and one flight between Delhi and Paris (Charles de Gaulle) from March 7-10, Air India said. The airline also said it plans to commence its scheduled operations to and from Jeddah to Delhi and Mumbai from March 5. It plans to operate an additional service early on March 5 on the Mumbai-Dubai-Delhi route with a B777 aircraft with larger capacity.

"We are also operating special flights from Ras Al Khaimah connecting Delhi, Kochi, and Mumbai until March 7," Air India Express said.

Don't fall for Opposition's claims on fuel shortage: BJP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Wednesday alleged that some sections in the Opposition are running a "misinformation campaign" to create panic through claims of fuel shortages and price spikes amid a "war-like situation" in West Asia, and asked people not to be swayed by it.

The ruling party asserted that the government has ensured that people are protected from supply shocks and runaway fuel inflation, despite "global instability". "...There is no need to be swayed," BJP IT Department head Amit Malviya said in a post on X.

He said India had built a "resilient, diversified and forward-looking" energy security framework over the past decade. With India importing nearly 88% of its crude oil, energy security is central to macroeconomic stability, the BJP leader said. "Recognising risks from wars, sanctions, supply disruptions and price shocks, the government adopted a strategy based on the energy 'trilemma'– availability, affordability and sustainability," he added.

Infiltration bid foiled along LoC in J&K's Rajouri: Army

Press Trust of India
RAJOURI/JAMMU

Army troops on Wednesday scuttled an infiltration attempt along the Line of Control (LoC) in Rajouri district, officials said.

The suspected persons were observed trying to sneak into this side from the Turkandi forward area around 4.15 a.m., prompting the Army to open fire, the officials said.

They said it was not immediately clear whether any suspect was hit in the firing. A massive search operation has been launched, with reinforcements inducted to clear the area of any terrorist presence.

"Own troops have been reoriented to ensure relentless domination of the area, supported by integrated ground and aerial surveillance. A robust operational posture and heightened alert remain in force across the sector," the Army said.

Tight security

Meanwhile, strict restrictions remained imposed in many areas of Kashmir for the third consecutive day on Wednesday following massive protests across the Valley against the killing of Iran's Supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, officials said.

As a precautionary measure, the government shut educational institutions till Saturday, while mobile Internet speed continued to remain throttled.

A large number of police and paramilitary CRPF personnel were deployed across the city to prevent gatherings of protesters, the officials said.

The iconic Ghanta Ghar in the city centre of Lal Chowk in Srinagar continued to remain a no-go zone after the authorities sealed area with barricades erected all around it late Sunday night.

The move to seal the Ghanta Ghar came after it witnessed massive protests on Sunday after Khamenei's assassination in the joint air strikes by the U.S. and Israel.

Symphony of colours

Brighter bonds: Coloured powder and water are sprayed over revellers during Holi celebrations at the Kalupur Swaminarayan temple in the old city of Ahmedabad, on Wednesday. VIJAY SONEJI

Palestinian envoy criticises 'jungle law' in Iran-U.S. war

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Palestinian Ambassador to India Abdullah M. Abu Shawesh has strongly criticised the growing reliance on military might in international disputes, terming it "jungle law" that benefits only those possessing superior weaponry while stripping defenceless nations of any viable future.

In an interview on Tuesday, he expressed deep concern over statements from major powers indicating that the window for negotiations had been closed. "When anyone talks about the time for negotiation being over, it means they will rely on muscle and weapons. This is utterly against international law," he said.

The ambassador pointed out that Israel had opportunities early in the Gaza conflict to secure the release of hostages without widespread destruction but still opted for prolonged military action.

Abdullah Abu Shawesh

"The Iran-U.S. war will affect not only Palestinians but everyone worldwide in the long run. But for the Palestinian issue, of course, all eyes right now are following what is happening between Iran, the U.S. and Israel. Everyone is turning their back, or semi-turning their back, to the Palestinian question," he added.

Regarding groups such as Hamas and Hezbollah, which receive Iranian support, the ambassador clarified that resistance to Israeli occupation takes multiple forms. He said, "Each Palestinian will not accept the Israeli occupation. There are many methods to resist. Some are military, which Hamas talks about, and we are not in agreement with. There is a diplomatic method, or Gandhian method of peaceful resistance."

Regarding Gaza's immediate future, he accused Israel of accelerating measures to render life unlivable, including financial strangulation aimed at bankrupting the Palestinian Authority and dismantling of its institutions.

Days after publication of draft electoral rolls, protests on SIR continue to rock West Bengal

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

Protests over the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) have continued in West Bengal days after the draft electoral rolls were published. On Wednesday, protests erupted at Usti in South 24 Parganas district over the suicide of a youth, Rafiq Ali Gazi.

He was upset upon finding his name in the adjudication list of the draft roll, his wife said. Supporters of the Trinamool Congress held a protest in Usti with the body of the deceased.

The ruling party said that until this "sinister plot of dispossessing ordinary citizens of their fundamental rights ceases, our struggle and unwavering resistance in defense of Constitutional justice shall persist".

They claimed that the deceased was excluded from the final list despite submitting all valid documents.

Mamata Banerjee

Protests were also seen in North 24 Parganas after more than 80% of electors from a polling booth were put on the adjudication list. After the four-month l SIR, the draft electoral rolls published on February 28, contained 7.04 crore electors, including 60 lakh electors being adjudicated.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee is set to sit in a *dharna* against the SIR from March 6 in Kolkata. Speaking at a public gathering in the city on Tuesday, she said that about 1.2 crore people of West Bengal were on the verge of losing their voting rights.

Accusing the Election Commission of trying to manipulate the upcoming polls, she said that people would give a befitting response to it.

On Wednesday, Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) leaders led a protest outside the office of the State's Chief Electoral Officer.

The protest was led by CPI(M) State Secretary Md. Salim, who said that the State's Executive has failed its people by putting 60 lakh electors in the adjudication list.

"Election [*nirvachan*] has become torture [*nirjatan*] for the people of West Bengal," Mr. Salim said.

(For those in distress, counselling is available at Tele MANAS 14416)

Before declaring poll dates, EC to assess ground situation in Bengal from March 8

Shrabana Chatterjee
KOLKATA

All members of the Election Commission of India, led by Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar, are likely to arrive in poll-bound West Bengal on March 8 to take stock of the situation on the ground before announcing the dates of the Assembly election.

The Commission members will hold meetings with State election officials and law enforcement officials, such as senior police officials and district magistrates, on March 9 and 10. They will focus on logistical arrangements, security deployment, and administrative preparedness for the polls.

They are also likely to meet all recognised political parties planning to contest the upcoming State Assembly election.

CCTV in booths

The Commission comprises the CEC and two Election Commissioners, Sukhbir Singh Sandhu and Vivek Joshi.

CRPF personnel interact with a child during a route march as part of enhanced security arrangements in Kolkata on Tuesday. ANI

Senior Deputy Election Commissioner Gyanesh Bharti will also be part of the delegation to West Bengal.

Poll officials will identify vulnerable and high-tension areas and deploy additional forces to ensure a smooth and transparent election process in the State.

According to sources, the EC is also looking at installing CCTV cameras outside polling booths, along with the cameras already present inside the booths, to facilitate immediate action in case of any adverse situations.

The Chief Electoral Officer (CEO) of West Bengal, along with other State poll officials and law enforcement officials, have already held virtual meetings with officials of the poll body in Delhi, on Monday and Tuesday.

According to sources in the office of the CEO, one of the key issues discussed at that meeting was to ensure that all polling booths get an uninterrupted power supply and a stable Internet connection during poll days.

Route marches

The State election is likely to be held sometime in April, though the exact dates and number of polling phases are yet to be announced.

Central security forces started route marches in Kolkata on Wednesday. So far, 240 companies of the Central Armed Police Forces have arrived in the State and another 240 companies will arrive by March 10.

The city of Kolkata alone will get 30 companies of Central forces, the highest in the country.

On Wednesday, route marches were seen in Girish Park, Muchipara, and Taltala in north and central Kolkata, and Rashbihari and other areas in south Kolkata.

MVA leaders back Sharad Pawar for Rajya Sabha, unopposed election likely

Congress drops its claim after internal negotiations; allies to support Uddhav's bid in Legislative Council election; the BJP fields four candidates as alliance leaders cite seniority and unity in backing the senior NCP(SP) leader's nomination; Pawar's grandnephew Parth Pawar to file papers today

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

Ending days of uncertainty in Maharashtra, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Wednesday formally announced Sharad Pawar as its sole candidate for the coming Rajya Sabha election, raising the possibility of an unopposed contest in the State.

The Congress central leadership decided in favour of Mr. Pawar's candidature, giving up on its own claim and standing against Shiv Sena (UBT)'s demand. "The decision follows Shiv Sena (UBT)'s refusal to take a stand on the Congress's proposal for (a joint) alignment between the two parties (Congress and Shiv Sena UBT) for one candidate," a Congress source told *The Hindu*.

Clear picture: A file photo of NCP (SP) Chief Sharad Pawar, Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge and Shiv Sena (UBT) Chief Uddhav Thackeray in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Last day for filing nominations for the Rajya Sabha election is today. Polls are going to be held on March 16

Second bid

"The MVA will now support Uddhav Thackeray for his second bid in the upcoming Legislative Council election," a senior Congress leader and a Shiv Sena (UBT) leader confirmed.

For the Rajya Sabha seat, the election quota in Maharashtra stands at 36 votes. Within the MVA, Shiv Sena (UBT) is the largest party with 20 MLAs, followed by Congress with 16 MLAs, and the NCP (SP) with 10. "Had the Shiv Sena (UBT) supported the Congress, we still had the strength to field one candidate. But Uddhav Thackeray did not respond to our proposal," a senior Congress leader said on condition of anonymity.

Several State Congress leaders expressed displeasure over the party not securing either the Rajya Sabha seat or the coming Maharashtra Legislative Council berth.

All three MVA constituents had initially staked claim to the Rajya Sabha candidature. The Congress argued that, as a national party, it needed a greater presence in the Rajya Sabha to strengthen its Leader of the Opposition position. The Shiv Sena (UBT) maintained that as the single largest Opposition party in Maharashtra and given the alliance's principle of rotation, its claim was valid. The NCP(SP), meanwhile, contended that Mr. Pawar's stature would ensure an unopposed election.

Leaders from the Congress and the Shiv Sena (UBT) described the matter as having taken an emotional turn, with neither party keen to appear unsupportive of Mr. Pawar. "He is a senior leader and unwell. He wants to be in the Rajya Sabha. Supriya Sule (Mr. Pawar's daughter), too, had been concerned about him. At such a juncture, not supporting him would have sent a wrong message to other allies. Mallikarjun Khargeji and Sonia Gandhiji decided that as the leader of the INDIA [Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance] bloc, we must support him," the sources said.

On Tuesday night, NCP (SP) MP Supriya Sule, along with State unit president Jayant Patil, met Uddhav Thackeray for over two hours to discuss the issue.

BJP's stance

BJP sources had earlier indicated that the party would not field more than four candidates if Mr. Pawar was declared the MVA candidate. On Wednesday, the BJP announced four candidates: Union Minister Ramdas Athawale, Vinod Tawde, Maya Invate and Ramrao Wadkute.

"I thank the Congress central leadership, State leaders, Uddhav Thackeray and his party and family for their support. We are truly grateful," Ms. Sule said.

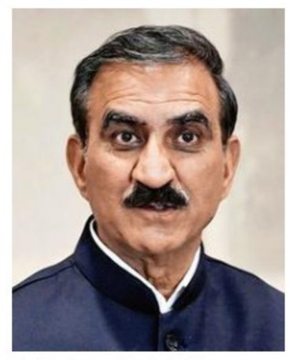
"The MVA will continue its fight against the BJP. Sharad Pawar going to the Rajya Sabha is a good indication," Maharashtra Congress president Harshawardhan Sapkal said.

Meanwhile, Sharad Pawar's grandnephew Parth Pawar is set to file his nomination on Thursday as the NCP candidate from the ruling Mahayuti alliance. He is the son of the late NCP leader and Sharad Pawar's nephew Ajit Pawar, who was the Deputy Chief Minister when he died in a tragic air accident in January. Eknath Shinde's Shiv Sena is expected to finalise its candidate on Thursday, the last day for filing nominations.

The Rajya Sabha elections are going to be held on March 16. Of the 37 seats from 10 States which will go to the polls, seven seats are from Maharashtra.

Congress candidate for RS polls will be named today: Sukhu

Press Trust of India
SHIMLA



Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu

Name of the Congress candidate for the lone Rajya Sabha seat from Himachal Pradesh will be disclosed at the time of filing of nomination on Thursday, Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said on Wednesday.

The candidate will be from Himachal Pradesh, he told presspersons here.

Thursday is the last date for filing of nomination for the Rajya Sabha and polling will be held on March 16. The election is needed as the six-year term of Bharatiya Janata Party leader Indu Goswami, elected unopposed in 2020, is coming to an end.

"There is neither any suspense nor fear over the election," Mr. Sukhu said, asserting that democracy would not be "sold like previous time".

Past experience

With a clear majority in the 68-member Himachal Pradesh Assembly, the Congress's victory is a foregone conclusion, but the party is haunted by its bitter experience in the previous Rajya Sabha election, where it lost the seat to the BJP despite having 40 MLAs and the backing of three Independents.

In the last election in February 2024, BJP candidate Harsh Mahajan defeated the Congress's Abhishek Manu Singhvi after they ended in a tie as six Congress MLAs cross-voted in favour of the BJP. The three Independents also voted against the Congress, and both candidates polled 34 votes each.

At present, there are 40 members of the Congress and 28 members of the BJP in the Assembly. A meeting of the Himachal Pradesh Congress Legislature Party has been convened on Thursday.

So far, neither the Congress nor the BJP has announced their candidates and BJP leaders have maintained that they would field a candidate only if the Congress candidate is not from Himachal Pradesh.

Raijor Dal releases first list of 11 candidates for Assam polls; CM slams Cong.'s list

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The Raijor Dal, led by Akhil Gogoi, released its first list of 11 candidates for the coming Assam Assembly election on Wednesday, less than 24 hours after its ally, the Congress, announced its first list of 42 candidates.

The election to the 126-member House is expected to be held in April.

The Raijor Dal has fielded Rahul Chetry from this eastern Assam seat, where the Congress has nominated Prateek Bordoloi, the son of Pradyut Bordoloi, MP for Nagaon. The party has also nominated Abdur Rashid Mandal from the Goalpara East constituency in western Assam. A three-time Congress MLA, he switched to the Raijor Dal a few weeks ago.

Among the 11 candidates, Raijor Dal's working president Romen Chandra Borthakur will contest the Jalukbari seat. Gyanashree Bora, named from the Digboi constituency, is the lone woman in the list.

Akhil Gogoi

The Raijor Dal has indicated that it could field candidates in at least eight more constituencies where the Congress has named its nominees, suggesting that the two parties are yet to resolve differences over seat sharing.

'Hereditary politics'

Reacting to the Congress list, Assam Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said it reflected the "hereditary politics" of the party. "If you analyse the list of candidates released by the Assam Pradesh Congress Committee, it becomes clear that they have been selected based on dynasty and family politics," he said.

Pointing to the sons of three former Chief Ministers in the list, Mr. Sarma took a swipe at the Congress for not looking beyond the descendants of its leaders.

The Congress candidates he referred to are Gaurav Gogoi, MP from Jorhat, Debabrata Saikia, and Diganta Barman, contesting the Jorhat, Nazira, and Barkhetry seats, respectively. They are the sons of former Chief Ministers Tarun Gogoi, Hiteswar Saikia, and Bhumidhar Barman.

The list includes many political heirs, including the sons of Rakibul Hussain and Pradyut Bordoloi, as well as the son of former Union Minister Paban Singh Ghatowar and the daughter-in-law of former MLA Member Gogoi, underscoring a strong hereditary trend in the list.

No possibility of merger of NCP factions any more, our position is clear, says Jayant Patil

Vinaya Deshpande Pandit
MUMBAI

The Nationalist Congress Party (Sharadchandra Pawar) on Wednesday formally scotched speculation about a possible merger with the Nationalist Congress Party, saying that such talks were no longer under consideration and that its allies in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) were aware of the party's position.

Speaking to presspersons in Mumbai, NCP(SP) State president Jayant Patil said, "The merger talks had been initiated at the insistence of Ajit Pawar. He is no more now. So there is no possibility of a merger any more. This issue does not exist any more. I don't think any of our alliance partners have any doubts about this."

His remarks come amid concerns raised by some MVA leaders about the NCP(SP)'s ideological position and whether it might eventually align with the BJP-led Mahayuti in Maharashtra.

Ajit Pawar, Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra and NCP's national president, died in a tragic air crash on January 28. Following his death, the NCP (SP) had claimed that merger talks between the two factions were at an advanced stage and that a formal announcement was expected on February 12. However, the party did not clarify whether a unified NCP would align with the National Democratic Alliance's regional alliance Mahayuti or INDIA [Indian National Developmental, Inclusive Alliance] bloc's regional alliance MVA. This ambiguity had triggered unease among its allies.

NCP(SP) leader says the plan does not exist any more as Ajit Pawar, who initiated it, is dead

On alliance partners

Mr. Patil spoke on the sidelines of discussions over the Rajya Sabha nomination from Maharashtra. When asked whether alliance partners were seeking assurance about the NCP(SP)'s allegiance to the INDIA bloc, the senior leader said no such assurance was necessary.

The party maintained that the MVA was formed at the initiative of Sharad Pawar and that he remained the binding force that brought the Congress and the Shiv Sena together despite their years of political differences.

The NCP(SP) has maintained that Ajit Pawar had been keen on reunification and had initiated informal discussions without consulting other party leaders. However, the current leadership of the NCP has denied that any merger talks were under way.

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SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

Item rate Tender is invited as per the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 Rules 2000 through electronic procurement from eligible Contractors Registered in KPWD who have got adequate financial resources & sufficient past experience for the following work as per the schedule given below:

Name of the Work: Providing Over Head Height Barrier at Various Locations at kadechur Badiyal Industrial Area, Yadgiri District **(3rd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

No. IADB/ENGG/ETND-DPR-06/01774/2025-26 **Date:04.03.2026**

SHORT TERM NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Through GOK Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Only)

KIADB invites tender from reputed consultants / firms under two cover bid system having an office at Bengaluru with vast experience and proven record of similar nature of work for project mentioned below:

Name of the Work : Providing Consultancy Services for preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Scientific Disposal of Industrial Solid Watse by Integrated Material Recovery Facility (MRF) and Alternate Fuel Raw Material Facility (AFR) including survey, analysis, qualitative & quantitative study, design of MRF & ARF facility etc., at plot No. 311 to 314, Belur Industrial Area, Dharwad Taluk & District **(3rd Call).**

The last date and time of receipt of tender is : **16.03.2026 upto 04:00 pm.**

Applicants May Download Bidding Documents from the Karnataka Public Procurement Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer - 2

DIPR/CP/JA/5992/2025-26

"Notification for selection to the position of Executive Vice President Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment published and the details are available on the following Websites of Kerala State Planning Board **(www.spb.kerala.gov.in),** Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment **(www.kscste.kerala.gov.in)** and Government of Kerala **(https://kerala.gov.in)"**

SANJAY GANDHI INSTITUTE OF TRAUMA AND ORTHOPAEDICS
(Government of Karnataka Autonomous Institute)

Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 560 011 Ph: 080-26564516, 26562500 Grams: SITO Fax: 26565222 E-mail: sitodirector@gmail.com
No. SGITO/e-Tender/ME/06/07/08/2025-26) **Date:.02-03-2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal only)

Sanjay Gandhi Institute of Trauma & Orthopaedics, Byrasandra, Jayanagar East, Bengaluru - 11 invites tender from the eligible tenderers through the KPP portal of GOK for procurement of below mentioned Medical equipments:-

(A). Tender No. SGITO/e-Tender/ME/Cautery/others/06/2025-26
(1) HIGH END ELECTROSURGICAL EQUIPMENT — 4 Nos.
(2) O.T TABLE WITH ORTHOPAEDIC ATTACHMENTS —1 No.
(3) MOTORIZED PATIENT COT WITH MATTRESS — 9 Nos.

(B). Tender No. SGITO/e-Tender/ME/Monitors/07/2025-26
(1) HIGH END MULTIPARA MONITORS — 4 Nos.
(2) MULTIPARA MONITORS- 18 Nos.

(C). Tender No. SGITO/e-Tender/ME/Anaesth/workstation/08/2025-26
(1) ANAESTHESIA WORK STATION — 2 Nos.

(D). Tender No. SGITO/e-Tender/Pest Control/06(B)/2025-26
PEST CONTROL SERVICES

(1) The Tenderers can download the documents from: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** on or after **04-03-2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through kpp portal is **20-03-2026** upto **4:00** PM.
(2) The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept / reject or cancel tender without assigning any reason thereof.

Sd/- Director
Tender Inviting Authority
DIPR/SI/5982/2025-26

INBRIEF

Finland's President Stubb kicks off 4-day visit to India

Finnish President Alexander Stubb began a four-day visit to India on Wednesday to shore up bilateral cooperation across a wide spectrum of areas, including trade, investment and critical technology. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, welcoming Mr. Stubb, said his visit will take India-Finland relations to "new heights". Mr. Stubb will hold talks with Mr. Modi on Thursday, following which the two sides are expected to firm up a number of agreements to boost cooperation. The Finnish president will be the chief guest at the inaugural session of the Raisina Dialogue on Thursday evening. PTI

Row erupts after non-tribals barred from Meghalaya polls

A notification barring non-tribal people from contesting the April 10 elections to the Garo Hills Autonomous District Council (GHADC) has stoked controversy in Meghalaya. Garo tribal organisations have defended the notification, which makes it mandatory for all candidates to possess a Scheduled Tribe, or ST, certificate. Non-tribal leaders have slammed the notification as an unconstitutional move. Former legislator S.G. Esmatur Mominin questioned the legality of the notification, arguing that the GHADC lacks constitutional authority to impose such a condition. Enamul Haque, an aspiring candidate for the Balachanda constituency, pointed out that the notification was based on the Sixth Schedule of the Constitution.

India ranks second globally in childhood obesity: study

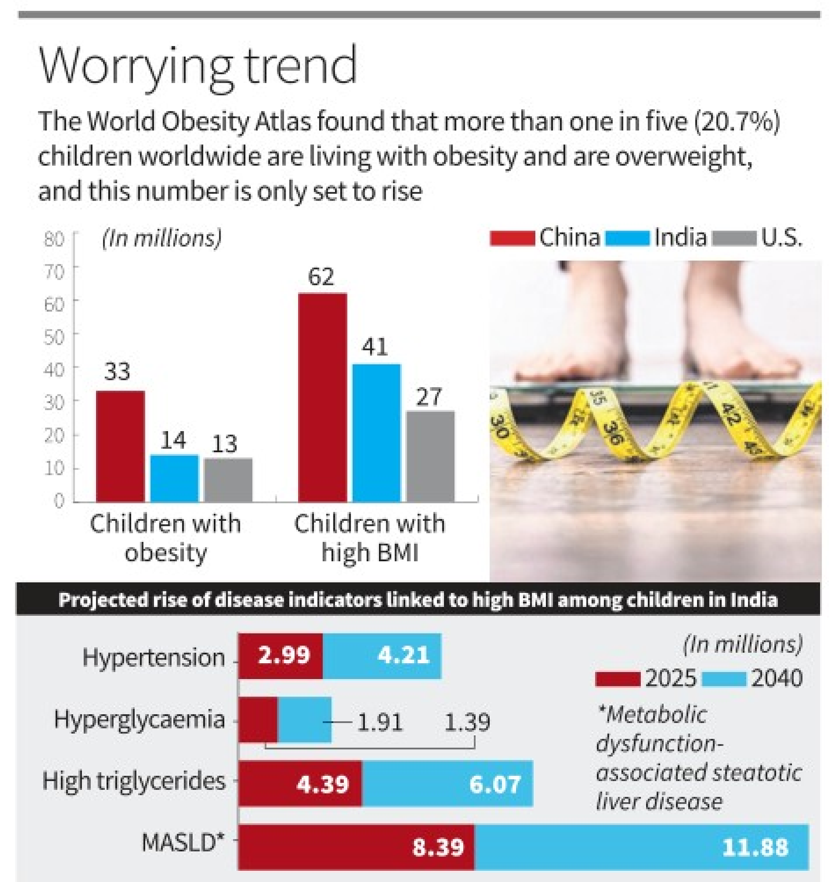
China, India and the U.S. each have over 10 million children with obesity; the World Obesity Atlas' report highlights risk factors such as poor physical activity levels and sub-optimal breastfeeding

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Nearly 15 million children aged five to nine and more than 26 million children aged 10 to 19 in India were overweight or obese in 2025, according to the World Obesity Atlas, 2026 released on World Obesity Day, which falls on March 4.

The World Obesity Federation, a global organisation focused on obesity, warned that the world was set to miss the 2025 global target to halve the rise in childhood obesity. Though the deadline is now being extended to 2030, most countries remain off track, and India is no exception, it said.

Over 200 million school-age children aged five to 19 who are overweight and living with obesity are concentrated in just 10 countries across the world. By the end of 2025, eight countries were projected to have over 10 million children with high Body Mass Index (BMI). China, India and the United States each had over 10 million children living with obesity. India stood second only to China in the number of children with high BMI (41 million high BMI; 14 million obesity). China led the two categories with 62 million children with high BMI and 33 million with only obesity. The U.S. had 27 million children with high BMI and 13 million with obesity.



This rise in childhood obesity is expected to have serious health consequences. The Atlas pointed out that in India, the number of children with disease indicators linked to high BMI is projected to rise substantially by 2040.

The report also highlighted several preventable risk factors across different age groups in the country. It noted that 74% of adolescents aged 11 to 17 failed to meet recommended physical activity levels, while only 35.5% of school-age children (primary and secondary) receive school meals. Nearly 32.6% of infants aged one to five months experience sub-optimal breastfeeding. Among women aged 15 to 49, 13.4% have high BMI and 4.2% live with Type 2 diabetes. Children aged six to 10 consumed sugary drinks, averaging up to 50 ml per day. The Atlas found that over one in five (20.7%) children worldwide are living with obesity and are overweight. This was an increase from 14.6% in 2010. The Federation predicts that by 2040, a total of 507 million children will be living with obesity or be overweight.

Call for action

There is an emphasis on governments to act immediately. Johanna Ralston, chief executive of the World Obesity Federation, said, "The increase in childhood obesity worldwide shows we have failed to take seriously a disease that affects one in five children. Governments urgently need to step up prevention and management efforts for children living with overweight and obesity, and ensure that they receive the care they need."

It has called for strong action to reverse current trends, including taxes on sugar-sweetened beverages and restrictions on marketing to children.

Study flags poor website-blocking practices in India

Aroon Deep
NEW DELHI

Study says Internet providers have little consensus when it comes to web blocking

A largely unprecedented probe into the website blocking practices of multiple Indian Internet service providers (ISPs) has revealed inconsistencies in how sites are restricted across the country, and uncovered potentially clumsy practices that have led to large swaths of the web being blocked.

"A total of 43,083 unique apex domains were confirmed blocked via DNS filtering – a six-fold increase over the previous largest study (which documented 6,787 blocked domains)," researcher Karan Saini wrote in the report, "Poisoned wells: examining the scale of DNS censorship in India", released on Monday. Over 23 crore domain names were tested. The report was supported by the Washington, DC-based Open Technology Fund's Information Controls Research Program, hosted at Georgia Institute of Technology.

Of the over 43,000 individual URLs blocked across different networks, very few were universally restricted. For instance, Mr. Saini found that only 40% of websites flagged for militant and terrorism-related content were blocked by all the sampled providers: ACT Fibernet, MTNL, Airtel, Jio, Connect Broadband and YOU Broadband. Other categories have even less blocking implemented by all the sampled providers, such as pirated films and TV sites (4.54%), pornography sites (0.53%) and gambling sites (13.48%).

Blocking strategies

"A significant portion of web censorship in India relies on DNS filtering," Mr. Saini writes. Domain Name System (DNS) filtering is subject to straightforward circumvention, while other methods, like server name inspection, have been more effective.

"The legal framework for censorship does not mandate any specific traffic filtering mechanisms," he writes. "ISPs are free to choose and implement traffic filtering mechanisms according to their own technical abilities and operational needs. A direct consequence has been that users perceive and experience website blocking inconsistently."

Solve confusion in delivering items addressed to the dead, Madras High Court tells India Post

Mohamed Imranullah S.
CHENNAI

The Madras High Court has directed the Union Ministry of Communications and the Director-General of Postal Services (DGPS) to solve the confusion over delivery of items addressed to dead persons due to an interplay between two provisions of the Post Office Regulations.

First Division Bench of Chief Justice Manindra Mohan Shrivastava and Justice G. Arul Murugan have requested Additional Solicitor-General AR.L. Sundaresan to send a copy of their order to the DGPS for compliance and further action as may be necessary to solve the confusion.

Till then, the postal department must hand over all items addressed to dead persons to their legal heirs, if the latter were found at the given residence, the Division Bench ordered while disposing of a writ petition to strike down Regulation 51 of the Post Office Regulations, 2024.

Return to sender

Mohana Ramaswami of Chinna Neelankarai in Chennai had filed the writ petition on the prime ground that the postal department was not handing over to her, the letters and other articles addressed to her deceased husband and instead returning them back to the senders.

Her counsel R. Subramanian brought it to the notice of the court that the DGPS had framed the Post Office Regulations, 2024 in exercise of the powers conferred on the officer under Section 13 of the Post Office Act, 2023. The regulations came into force on December 16, 2024.

Until there's clarification, items of deceased persons should be handed over to the legal heirs.

Regulation 51 states that items addressed to deceased persons must be treated as if they were unclaimed and disposed of as per Regulation 65(2). Further, Regulation 65(2) states that undelivered items must be sent back to the sender or the authorised person concerned, counsel pointed out.

However, the judges wrote "the provision (Regulation 51), in terms, does not appear to be suffering from any arbitrariness, much less manifest arbitrariness, warranting interference of this court". They said a confusion appears to have arisen because of interplay between Regulation 51 and 65(1)(c).

The Division Bench pointed out Regulation 65 (1)(c) clearly states that "an undelivered item of which the addressee is dead and there is no person to whom the item could properly be delivered, shall not be detained in the post office to which it is addressed and shall be returned to the sender."

Legal interpretation

Laying stress on the words "if there is no person to whom the item could properly be delivered", found in Regulation 65(1)(c), the judges said, a fair and logical interpretation of the regulations should only mean that the items should be returned to the sender only if they could not be handed over to legal representatives.

The Chief Justice added: "The Regulation does not expressly provide as to the category of persons to whom the item can properly be delivered. There appears to be a gap and this is causing inconvenience to persons like the writ petitioner."

His Bench directed the Ministry and the DGPS to either amend the 2024 Regulations to define the category of persons to whom the items could be delivered or fill in the gap by clarifying the position properly. Till then, all postal items must be handed over to legal heirs found at the residence of the deceased, the court ordered.

Omar's meeting with civil society focuses on peace in Kashmir

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

He stresses on maintaining harmony while expressing grief over recent events in Iran

J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Wednesday chaired a meeting of legislators, religious leaders, and civil society groups to coordinate efforts in maintaining peace in Kashmir.

Mr. Abdullah had interacted with religious leaders and members of civil society in Srinagar in light of recent developments in West Asia, an official spokesperson said. "The participants [at the meeting] expressed concern over the situation and conveyed their condolences over the loss of lives in Iran."

During the meeting, Mr. Abdullah emphasised the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in J&K while respecting the sentiments of the people, and ensuring that expressions of grief and mourning were peaceful and responsible, officials said.

Mr. Abdullah also offered *fatiha* (special prayers) for the slain Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, and all those who had lost their lives in the recent developments in Iran.

Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti, meanwhile, burnt pictures of U.S. President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to register her party's protest against the killing of Khamenei and his family.

Former MP and veteran journalist H.K. Dua dead

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

H.K. Dua, former editor of three leading national dailies and Rajya Sabha member, passed away on Wednesday after a brief period of illness. He was 88.

The veteran journalist breathed his last at a private hospital where he had been undergoing treatment for the past three weeks. The cremation will take place at the Lodhi Road crematorium on Thursday.

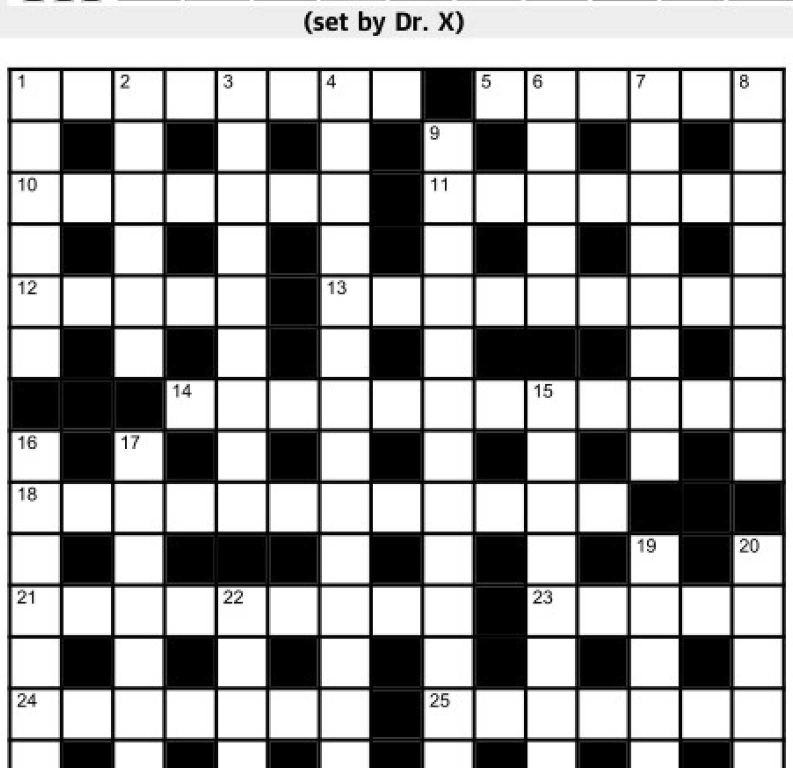
Apart from the distinction of serving as the Editor of *The Hindustan Times* (1987-94), and Editor-in-Chief of *The Indian Express* (1994-96) and *The Tribune* (2003-09), he also worked as the media adviser to two former Prime Ministers, Atal Bihari Vajpayee and H.D. Deve Gowda.

TH CROSSWORD+ 14733

(set by Dr. X)

Solve this puzzle online and access more puzzles at *https://thehindu.com/crosswords*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Humorist and married assistant in retreat, cheating around (8)
5 Quarrel about American beginning to raise tax (6)
10 Shoot gangsta finally behind pub in Caribbean island (7)
11 Arrive in market to get hold of vase (4,3)
12 Member, upset after trustee's last electronic message (1-4)
13 Developing nice grin perhaps to capture hearts (9)
14 One seen at racecourse painting popular horse during ceremony (8,4)
18 What person might do in cold weather to show keen satisfaction (3,4,5)
21 Immorality of English rogue enthralled by joint and cocaine on vacation (9)
23 Obstructive problem in part of small intestine, nearly ending in peritonitis (5)
24 Crowd heartily entertained by genius playing type of rock (7)
25 Crack cocaine - extremely repulsive bad habit (7)
26 Gemstone in store, mostly a little topaz (6)
27 Despise rogue having love affairs (8)

Down

1 Australian pal caught thief right away (6)
2 Being ethical, admits fault finally (6)
3 Misleads essentially in uncertainty, playing only two cards of a suit (9)
4 Incompetence of masseur in the spa, extremely clumsy (14)
6 A posh valuable, mostly of gold (5)
7 Comic in Cairo, ultimately satirical and wry (8)
8 Overweight guide, terribly exhausted (8)
9 Trump is beginning to argue at once, making fuss about trivial matter (5,2,1,6)
15 Singles romping, having party in retreat? Goodness! (9)
16 Resenting misuse of drug and drink by girl (8)
17 Old boy on screen, turning more indecent (8)
19 Crew in department checking VCR button (6)
20 They question fool grabbing king and queen (6)
22 Decided to acquire manufacturer's latest unmanned aerial vehicle (5)

SUDOKU

5					8	2	6	
	8	6						
				5		4	8	
	9	3		7				
			3	9	1			
				8		5	3	
	2	7		6				
						6	7	
	1	9	2					8

No.SS6810 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

N	A	M	I	B	I	A		C	O	H	A	B	I	T
E		A		L		M		U		A		I		U
C	O	Y	P	U		B	U	B	B	L	E	J	E	T
K		F		F		U		E		I		O		O
T	E	L	E	F	I	L	M	S		T	R	U	E	R
I		O				A				O				E
E	D	W	I	N		N	E	W	S	S	T	A	N	D
		E		O		C		A		I		I		
M	A	R	E	S	N	E	S	T		S	E	R	I	F
A				T				E				S		I
L	O	O	F	A		I	R	R	I	T	A	T	E	D
M		N		L		D		M		A		R		G
S	H	A	N	G	R	I	L	A		P	R	I	Z	E
E		I		I		O		I		I		K		T
Y	A	R	D	A	R	M		N	U	R	S	E	R	Y

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	1	9	5	6	3	2	4	7
5	6	2	9	4	7	8	1	3
4	7	3	8	1	2	6	5	9
7	9	1	2	3	5	4	6	8
3	5	6	4	8	9	7	2	1
2	4	8	6	7	1	3	9	5
9	8	7	1	2	4	5	3	6
6	2	5	3	9	8	1	7	4
1	3	4	7	5	6	9	8	2

FAITH

Controlling the mind key

Can a person enamoured by a shadow ever hope to catch it, when its very nature is illusory? Worldly pleasures are like shadows – appearing attractive, yet lacking substance. By running after them, one can never attain lasting peace or true happiness, for they are impermanent and fleeting. Therefore, we must not allow our minds to be driven by unchecked influence from the physical senses; instead, we must anchor them in restraint, clarity, and discernment. Lord Krishna says in the Bhagavad Gita that when the mind follows the wandering senses and indulges in their objects, a person's understanding is swept away – just as a ship on the ocean is carried off its course by a strong wind.

In a discourse, Thanneerpalli Sri Krishnan Swami emphasised that one should not allow the mind to run after worldly objects, but instead turn it inward toward self-realisation. Echoing this teaching, Krishna declares in the Gita that we should engage in actions that constantly remind us of Him. Such actions are not arbitrary; they are those enjoined by the Srutis and Smrtis. By performing prescribed duties with remembrance of the Lord, the mind is purified, disciplined, and gradually led away from illusion toward true knowledge of the Self. If we engage in actions that are ultra vires the Sastras and Smritis and yet pray to God, it is doubtful whether such worship will truly please Him. Prayer cannot compensate for conduct that contradicts scriptural injunctions. True devotion lies in aligning one's actions with what is ordained by the Sastras and Smritis; only then does prayer become sincere, meaningful, and acceptable to God.

INBRIEF

Indian bond yield climb near 3-week high on crude spike

Indian government bond yields climbed to an almost a three-week high in afternoon trade on Wednesday, tracking a sharp spike in global crude oil prices amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. The yield on the benchmark 10-year government security rose to 6.7112%, its highest level since February 20, say market participants. Traders said surge in crude prices, particularly Brent crude nearing $85/barrel, triggered sell-off in domestic bonds, pushing yields higher. PTI

PhonePe eyes up to $10.5 bn IPO valuation in India

Walmart-backed Indian fintech firm PhonePe, the country's most used payments platform, is aiming to list at a valuation of between $9 billion and $10.5 billion, two people with direct knowledge of the matter said. That suggests the IPO will raise about $900 million to $1.05 billion. But even at the top end, the deal would mark a cut from the $12 billion valuation at which PhonePe last raised $100 million in private markets in 2023. REUTERS

Aurobindo Pharma ARM unveils cancer drug copy

Aurobindo Pharma subsidiary Eugia Pharma Specialities introduced Pomalidomide Capsule in the U.S. market. The product, used to treat relapsed or refractory multiple myeloma and AIDS-related Kaposi sarcoma, will be produced at Eugia Unit-I. The product is generic equivalent of BMS Pharmaceuticals Corp's Pomalyst Capsules. In the U.S. for 12 months ended January, Pomalidomide capsules had an estimated market size of about $3.3 billion as per IQVIA MAT data.

War puts oil, gas imports under stress

Many unloaded Indian oil tankers and gas carriers are awaiting orders from oil companies to proceed to other ports for alternative sources

Kalyanaraman M.
CHENNAI

War effect: SCI ships with cargo carrying capacity of almost eight lakh tonne are stranded. REUTERS

The escalating war in West Asia is putting India's oil and gas imports under stress with tankers and gas carriers bound for India stranded in Persian Gulf and Qatar shutting down its Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) production facility.

Some 200 internationally-trading crude oil and product tankers are stranded in the Persian Gulf following a total stoppage of ship movement across the Strait of Hormuz, as per Lloyds List Intelligence. Their data shows while China's Sinokor has the most ships stranded among all owners, Indian government-owned Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) too is a leading owner whose assets are stranded.

Stranded at sea

SCI ships with cargo carrying capacity of almost eight lakh tonne are stranded. Sanmar Shipping has ships with 3 lakh tonne of cargo capacity there. At least 22 Indian flagged oil tankers and gas carriers with almost 400 Indian seafarers onboard are stranded in Persian Gulf, said Anil Devli, CEO of Indian National Shipowners' Association. More than 35 Indian flagged ships are in the region, he said.

All of India's Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) needs are imported from Qatar and Saudi Arabia and they have been stressed too.

The Indian government has said that India is in a 'reasonably comfortable position' with 25 days of crude oil in reserves not including the emergency-earmarked Special Petroleum Reserve and two to three weeks of LNG reserves. The government has assured that it had already been looking at diversifying LPG supplies.

Overall, the Indian flag has some 140 oil tankers and gas carriers. Many unloaded Indian oil tankers and gas carriers are awaiting orders from oil companies to proceed to other ports for alternative sources, said Mr. Devli.

Saudi Arabia is seeking to pipe fuel supplies to its ports on the Red Sea such as Yanbu as alternative export points, says Mr. Devli, adding ships calling on those ports, however, run the risk of being targeted by Houthis.

Qatar has halted LNG production after its facilities came under attack amid the ongoing West Asia conflict, disrupting supplies to India.

India, which depends on long-term LNG contracts with Qatar for 40% of its annual natural gas needs, has seen a temporary suspension of cargoes.

CNG prices to double?

While some industrial users can switch to alternative but costlier fuels, the CNG-retailing city gas sector warned of severe stress. City gas distribution operators said replacing contracted Qatari volumes with spot LNG priced at more than double the contracted rate could erode CNG's price advantage and result in a permanent shift of customers to EVs.

(With PTI inputs)

Investors continue selling stocks as crude gets dearer

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Indian investors continued selling, triggering the benchmark indices to tumble for the second consecutive session as oil prices surged on closure of Strait of Hormuz.

Benchmarks Nifty 50 and Sensex 30 closed at 24,480.50 and 79,116.19, down 1.6% and 1.4% respectively on Wednesday, responding to oil surge.

Nifty 50, where the volume is the highest, opened at 24,388.80, down over 2% from the previous close, slid to the day's low of 24,305.40 and hit the day's high of 24,602.45 before reaching the close.

Twenty of the 21 sectoral indices declined, some of them crashing by more than 3% in a session. Only IT index improved by a marginal 0.1%.

The rupee, meanwhile, closed at ₹92.05 a dollar, a fresh low, after the sustained increase in oil prices. This is a 7.3% depreciation from ₹85.47 a dollar in March 2025. Currency analysts say that this volatility is expected to continue in case of a sustained tension in the region.

"Indian rupee recorded its steepest two-session decline since May 2025, as soaring energy prices intensified fears of persistent inflation and a widening trade deficit," said Dilip Parmar, research analyst, at HDFC Securities.

IRDAI sets April 1 for insurers to use Ind As

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) proposed April 1 for insurers to adopt Indian Accounting Standards (Ind AS).

The date will be applicable to all categories of insurers, including life, general, health insurers and re-insurers, IRDAI said, placing an exposure draft and a consultation paper in the public domain for comments.

The move is aimed at promoting more consistency, transparency and comparability in financial reporting across the insurance sector in alignment with globally-accepted norms while preserving regulatory prudence and safeguarding policyholder interests, IRDAI said.

The framework has been developed after comprehensive engagement with insurers. The steps are intended to aid smooth transition to Ind AS-based financial reporting.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,116	-1.40
U.S. Dollar	92.05	------
Brent oil	81.04	------

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2076.50	-48.10
Adani Ports	1434.40	-35.90
Apollo Hosp	7666.00	-125.50
Asian Paints	2285.20	-21.90
Axis Bank	1351.30	-21.00
Bajaj Auto	9652.50	-123.50
Bajaj Finserv	1889.30	-52.60
Bajaj Finance	945.10	-33.15
Bharat Elec	446.85	-7.10
Bharti Airtel	1905.90	32.70
Cipla	1313.20	-38.40
Coal India	435.15	8.90
Dr Reddys Lab	1291.20	-3.20
Eicher Motors	7626.50	-199.50
Eternal Ltd.	240.73	-2.14
Grasim Ind	2683.20	-94.10
HCL Tech	1364.00	-7.00
HDFC Bank	868.65	-10.75
HDFC Life	684.60	-22.70
Hindalco	921.80	-18.20
Hind Unilever	2261.30	-59.30
ICICI Bank	1365.40	-8.60
IntGlobeAvi	4392.90	-127.50
Infosys	1307.40	18.50
ITC	311.95	-2.95
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	241.30	-7.70
JSW Steel	1213.00	-54.30
Kotak Bank	403.35	-9.75
L&T	3882.60	-184.10
M&M	3264.30	-70.00
Maruti Suzuki	14158.00	-230.00
Max Healthcare	1053.70	-29.90
NestleIndia	1245.30	-34.40
NTPC	365.80	-11.75
ONGC	276.95	-5.25
PowerGrid Corp	291.95	-4.85
Reliance Ind	1345.00	-13.00
SBI Life	1930.60	-101.60
State Bank	1174.50	-15.40
Shriram Finance Ltd.	1010.00	-42.50
Sun Pharma	1750.50	-2.00
TataConsumerProduct	1110.60	-14.60
Tata Steel	196.73	-14.28
TCS	2587.80	-25.70
Tech Mahindra	1351.20	5.80
Titan	4204.40	-65.90
Tata Motors PV	351.20	-19.40
Trent Ltd.	3756.80	-91.70
UltraTech Cement	12107.00	-414.00
Wipro	195.55	-3.02

Bullion futures recoil

Silver and gold prices rebounded in futures trade, tracking firm demand in international markets as investors sought safe-haven assets amid escalating tensions in the Middle East. PTI

MRPL said to declare force majeure on Mar. gasoline exports

Reuters
NEW DELHI

Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals (MRPL) declared force majeure on all upcoming gasoline export cargoes amid the West Asia conflict that has disrupted crude flows from the Gulf, two traders said.

The company had already awarded two to three cargoes via tenders for early March loading and is in discussion with buyers on settling those supplies, one of the traders said.

MRPL has swap agreements with traders to receive crude cargoes in exchange for supplying refined fuel, the trader added.

The State-run refiner, which runs a 3,00,000-barrel-per-day refinery in Karnataka, exports about 40% of refined fuel output.

Shipping through the Strait of Hormuz between Iran and Oman, a conduit for about a fifth of oil consumed globally, virtually stopped after Iranian attacks on vessels in the wake of U.S. and Israeli strikes that interrupted energy trade flows. MRPL did not immediately respond to a *Reuters* email request for comment.

Morbi ceramic units face shutdown on propane supply issue

Avinash Nair
AHMEDABAD

Morbi in Gujarat, which accounts for 80-90% of India's ceramic production, is staring at an unprecedented fuel crisis triggered by the U.S.-Iran conflict.

About 300 units running on propane are likely to start shutting down from Wednesday night or Thursday as propane supplies dry up and natural gas allocations are cut.

"If the propane supply stops, then 70% of the units in Morbi are expected to shut operations. These units are expected to start shutting down from Wednesday night or Thursday," said Manoj Arvadiya, president (vitrified tiles division), Morbi Ceramic Manufacturers Association.

Almost 70% of Morbi ceramic units run on propane.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

U.S.-Iran war impacts Indian rice shipments to West Asia destinations

M. Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

Export of rice, which is mainly basmati varieties, to west Asian countries is suspended following the U.S., Iran, Israel war.

Satish Goel, president of the All India Rice Exporters Association, said of the nearly six million tonne of annual basmati rice exports, 70% to 75% go to the west Asian countries. Of this, about one million tonne goes to Iran.

All exports to Iran and other west Asian countries have stopped completely. There are goods in the ships that are stranded and at the ports. At a meeting with the Central government officials on Tuesday, the Association sought review of demurrage costs.

Choppy waters: All exports to Iran and other west Asian countries have stopped completely. REUTERS

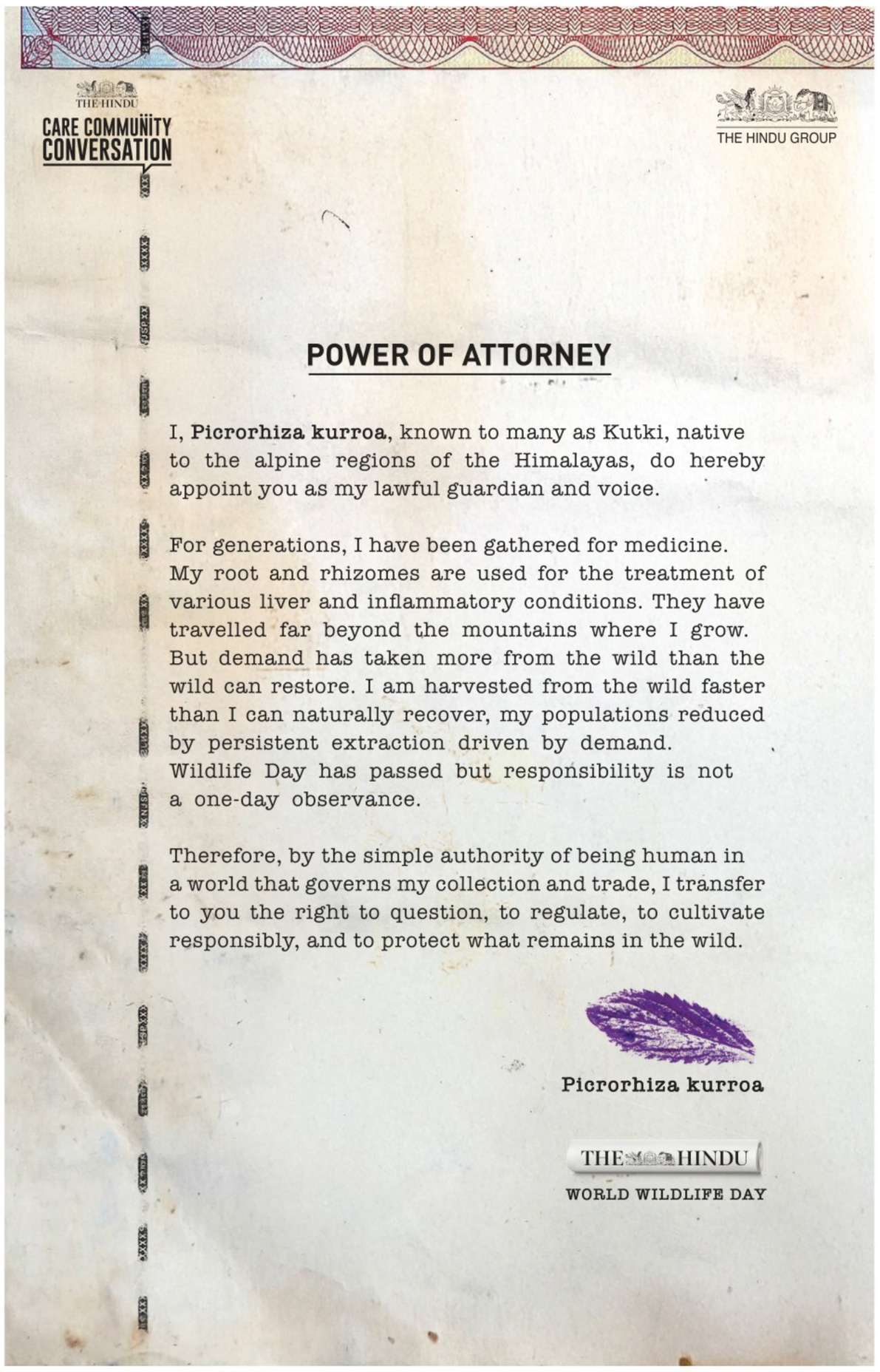
Largest buyers

The Indian Rice Exporters Federation national president Prem Garg told *The Hindu* that Iran, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE are among the largest buyers of Indian basmati rice and the exports are usually high between October and March every year.

The Federation has issued an advisory to its members to not undertake new cost, insurance and freight commitments for the west Asian destinations and, wherever feasible, to conclude sales on free on board terms. Ship fuel price last Friday was $480 a barrel and on Wednesday $925 a barrel. So, freight costs have shot up. Container and bulk vessel availability are also hit.

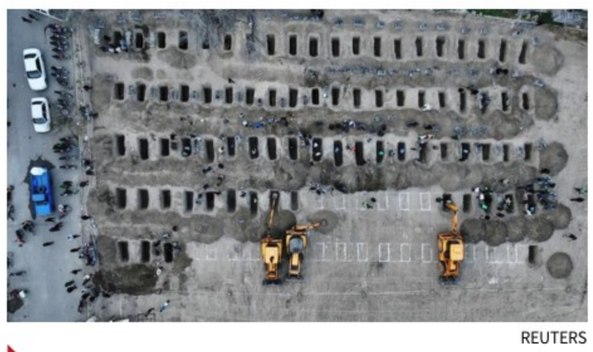
Between April-December 2025, exports to west Asia totalled 3.90 million tonne and 7.16 million tonne were shipped to Africa. Iran increased its sourcing in the last two months and is expected to have stocks that will last for a couple of months.

Basmati wholesale prices rose 10-15% past month and heightened volatility in basmati prices is expected in the coming days, the Federation said.



GENEVA

Children must be protected in West Asia war, say UN experts



REUTERS

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child insisted on Wednesday that children must be protected during the war in the West Asia, highlighting an alleged air strike on an Iranian school. Iran has blamed Israel and the U.S. for the strike on the school in the Iranian city of Minab, giving a toll of more than 150 dead. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump reclaims narrative, insists he struck Iran on his own terms

GETTY IMAGES

U.S. President Donald Trump and his team scrambled on Tuesday to reclaim the narrative on why he decided to attack Iran, after a top diplomat said that the U.S. struck after learning of an imminent Israeli strike. However, officials said that Mr. Trump authorised the strikes because Tehran was not "serious about a deal". AFP

TEHRAN

Iran says it is 'trying' to swiftly appoint new Supreme Leader

REUTERS

Iran said on Wednesday it was trying to swiftly appoint a new Supreme Leader after Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was killed in U.S.-Israeli strikes on the weekend. "We are all trying," said Ahmad Khatami, a member of the Assembly of Experts for Leadership which is responsible for selecting a new leader. AFP

BRUSSELS

EU says 'ready' to defend interests after Trump's threat against Spain

REUTERS

The European Commission said on Wednesday it was "ready" to defend EU interests after U.S. President Donald Trump threatened to sever trade with Spain for refusing to allow U.S. use of its bases to attack Iran. "We stand ready to act if necessary to safeguard EU interests," said commission spokesperson Olof Gill. AFP

U.S. and Israel continue hammering Iran

Tehran's centre, Qom, other Iranian cities, and missile sites hit on fifth day of conflict; Israel says it downed an Iranian YAK-130 fighter over Tehran with an F-35; its military orders Lebanon border evacuations; Iranian authorities postpone mourning ceremony for Khamenei citing intense strikes

Associated Press
Agence France-Presse
DUBAI

The United States and Israel hit Iran's capital and other cities in multiple air strikes on Wednesday, the fifth day of the war with Iran. Israel targeted the Iranian leadership and security forces as the Islamic Republic responded with missile barrages and drone attacks on Israel and across the region.

Tehran residents woke to dawn blasts, and Iranian state television showed the ruins of building in the centre of the capital. The Shia seminary city of Qom and multiple other cities were also targeted.

The Israeli military said one of its F-35 stealth fighter jets shot down a piloted Iranian Air Force YAK-130 fighter over Tehran on Wednesday. It also said Israeli air defences were activated to intercept Iranian missiles fired at targets around the country, and explosions were heard around Jerusalem.

The tempo of the strikes on Iran was so intense that authorities postponed the mourning ceremony for Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who was killed in the conflict, according to Iranian state television.

Meanwhile, Turkiye's Defence Ministry said NATO defences intercepted a ballistic missile launched from Iran before it entered Turkiye's airspace.

Iran has also attacked regional infrastructure.

Critical hit: Rescue workers carry the body of a victim after a strike on a building in Tehran's Enghelab Square. AFP

Saudi Arabia said on Wednesday its Ras Tanura oil refinery, one of the world's largest, was again targeted after an unsuccessful drone attack on it earlier in the week. The kingdom's Oil Ministry said the latest attack did not cause any damage and supplies were not affected.

Air sirens sounded in the morning across the island kingdom of Bahrain, home to the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, and Qatar's Ministry of Defence said Iran launched two ballistic missiles against it. One hit Al-Udeid Qatari Base but didn't cause casualties. The UAE's Ministry of Defence separately said its air defences "successfully engaged with 3 ballistic missiles on Wednesday and detected 129 drones, of which 121 drones were intercepted while 8 fell on state territory".

The American Embassy in Saudi Arabia and the U.S. Consulate in the United Arab Emirates came under drone attacks on Tuesday, and the U.S. State Department said on Wednesday it had authorised non-emergency government personnel to evacuate the kingdom.

Five days into a war that U.S. President Donald Trump suggested could last a month or longer, nearly 800 people have been killed in Iran, including some Mr. Trump said he had considered as possible future leaders of the country.

Israel's military, on Wednesday, ordered residents of dozens of border villages in southern Lebanon to evacuate "immediately," adding that residents living south of Litani river should immediately head north. The military said it was "compelled to take military action" against Hezbollah, while the group claimed to have launched swarms of attack drones at an Israeli military base near Tel Aviv and a naval base in Haifa. The announcements came shortly after Israel activated air raid sirens following what it described as launches from both Iran and Lebanon.

IRGC claims it has 'complete control' of Strait of Hormuz

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Wednesday they had total control of the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway for global energy transit, as Israel launched a new wave of strikes on the Iranian capital.

Governments scrambled to evacuate citizens stranded by the war in the West Asia, with Iran expanding a missile and drone barrage on countries around the region on the fifth day of a war that sent global shares sinking.

With energy prices already spiking, U.S. President Donald Trump had said the U.S. Navy was ready to escort oil tankers through the crucial Gulf shipping route.

An aerial view of the Strait of Hormuz. REUTERS

Earlier in the war, the IRGC warned ships against entering the strait, and major shipping firms have already suspended transit through the waterway with maritime agencies reporting several ships attacked.

The Omani navy rescued 24 crew members of a Malta-flagged container ship struck by missiles while transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Wednesday.

Moscow blames Kyiv for gas tanker attack in the Mediterranean

Agence France-Presse
TRIPOLI

Libyan port authority says the Russian carrier sank after 'sudden explosions'

Russia accused Ukraine on Wednesday of using naval drones to attack one of its liquefied natural gas carriers in the Mediterranean Sea off the Libyan coast, a strike which led to its sinking.

Kyiv has not commented on the attack, which would be a rare successful hit on a Russian "shadow fleet" vessel while it was some 2,000 km from Ukraine.

The Libyan port authority said the Russian carrier, *Arctic Metagaz*, sank after "sudden explosions" north of the port of Sirte.

The ship "had experienced sudden explosions followed by a massive fire, which ultimately led to its complete sinking" on Tuesday night, it said.

Moscow said the tanker had been attacked by Ukrainian naval drones in "an act of international terrorism and maritime piracy".

Nepal to vote in first post-protest parliamentary election

Sanjeev Satgainya
KATHMANDU

Nepal is voting on Thursday in its first election since last September's Gen Z protests that toppled the K.P. Sharma Oli government and led to the dissolution of the House of Representatives.

The sudden eruption of the movement – marked by the unprecedented participation of thousands of young people – and the killing of 19 youth in police firing left the country in shock. The international community, too, was caught off guard. In total, 77 people lost their lives during the two days of protests, making it one of the most violent episodes in Nepal's recent political history. After Mr. Oli of the Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist) resigned, an interim government was installed – a move some say breached constitutional boundaries. The March 5 election, hence, is expected to restore constitutional order and bring the democratic process back on track.

With a clear majority for any single party highly unlikely, analysts predict a return to a hung parliament and coalition politics – hallmarks of Nepali democracy in recent years.

"A fractured Parliament, probably the most likely scenario, means that coalition negotiations will play a key role in shaping what comes next," said Sanjay Upadhya, a U.S.-based Nepali author. "The journey ahead is twofold. Not only do parties need to find common ground, but they also have to manage differences within their ranks."

Polling officials make final arrangements at a polling station ahead of Nepal's elections, in Kathmandu on Wednesday. PTI

Nepal's economic dependence on India remains substantial, with more than two-thirds of its trade conducted with its southern neighbour. The two countries share an approximately 1,800-km-long porous border, which citizens of either country can cross without a visa or passport.

New Delhi is not merely a development partner; it has historically exercised considerable influence in Nepal's political processes. Though Delhi has appeared relatively hands-off since the Gen Z protests, it consistently pushed for elections on the announced date and extended logistical support.

India's stated position has been to "work with the government of the day in Kathmandu". Yet it has not gone unnoticed that Mr. Oli's ultranationalist rhetoric and his perceived tilt towards China had, at times, strained ties with Delhi. Analysts suggest India may quietly prefer a non-Left dispensation in Kathmandu. Such a government could be led either by the Nepali Congress, or by the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), a relatively new political force experiencing a groundswell this election.

In November, the outgoing Chinese ambassador Chen Song reaffirmed China's commitment to supporting Nepal for the successful completion of the March 5 vote. China has steadily expanded its footprint in Nepal in recent years. Its engagement became more assertive after Nepal's communist forces united in 2018 under Mr. Oli to form a powerful Left alliance – a bloc that later imploded in 2021.

The United States has also expressed confidence in a peaceful electoral process and indicated its readiness to work with the next government.

'Unilateral moves generate strong resistance, damage U.S. credibility'

Wang Dong, a leading Chinese expert on global governance, shares a perspective on how the war on Iran by the United States and Israel, and the ongoing regional crisis is being seen in Beijing

INTERVIEW

Wang Dong

Ananth Krishnan
BEIJING

In an interview with *The Hindu*, Wang Dong, professor at the School of International Studies at Peking University and executive director of the Institute for Global Cooperation and Understanding, who is a leading Chinese expert on global governance and China-U.S. relations, shares a perspective on how the attack on Iran by the U.S. and Israel, and the ongoing crisis engulfing West Asia, is being seen in Beijing.

How do you view the strikes by the U.S. and Israel and the latest developments in Iran? Are you surprised?

The latest military strikes against Iran have triggered a dangerous escalation in the Middle East [West Asia], pushing the region to the brink of a full-scale conflict. As an observer, I am deeply alarmed, rather than surprised. For years, tensions have been building over regional security, nuclear non-proliferation, and external intervention. What has happened is a reckless breakdown of restraint, violating the sovereignty of a UN member state and disregarding basic norms of international relations. Such moves will not resolve disputes.

China's initial official statement on February 28 said it was "highly concerned over the military strikes" and called "for an immediate stop of the military actions". But it did not condemn the strikes, which struck me as a rather measured response.

First, I need to correct this factual inaccuracy: China has explicitly and clearly condemned these military strikes. China's position is consistent and firm. It opposes and condemns the use of force against sovereign states, stresses respect for sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, and calls for an immediate end to military actions. This is not "measured restraint" but a principled stand anchored in the UN Charter and international law.

Have the developments in Venezuela and now Iran changed your view of, firstly, U.S. foreign policy under Trump, and secondly, how we might look at U.S. power in the world today?

Recent interventions in Venezuela and Iran reveal a consistent pattern: a reliance on unilateral coercion, regime-change attempts, and military means as tools of foreign policy. This approach reflects a belief in military primacy and a disregard for international law and sovereign equality.

As for U.S. power, these actions show that the U.S. still possesses strong military and coercive capabilities, but they also expose the limits of military supremacy.

Unilateral moves generate strong resistance, damage U.S. credibility, and alienate partners. Hard power alone cannot sustain legitimate leadership; it breeds resentment and counter-balancing. U.S. influence is increasingly contested, and its ability to impose outcomes unilaterally is declining.

Have the past few months changed your view of the world order as it stands today? Do these events speak to a world that's still very much unipolar, or on the other hand, do these developments in some sense reflect a transition away from a unipolar, U.S.-led world?

The past months have reinforced my judgment: we are in an era of transition from unipolarity to multipolarity, not a still unipolar world.

The U.S. still tries to act unilaterally, but it faces stronger pushback from sovereign states, regional groups and global public opinion. More countries refuse to choose sides or accept hegemonic dictates. The very fact that many nations, including major powers, condemn or oppose military strikes shows that the old unipolar system no longer works. These crises are not proof of lasting unipolar dominance; they are the last spasms of a fading order. The trend toward greater pluralism, multipolarity and rule of law is irreversible.

Going back to the U.S. war in Iraq, what impact do you think it had on both China-U.S. relations and China's rise in the decades since? Do you see any parallels today?

The Iraq War was a turning point. It drained U.S. resources, eroded its moral authority, and diverted its strategic focus, creating a relatively permissive external environment for China's development. It also deepened global scepticism about unilateral military intervention. The lesson from Iraq is clear. Military ventures do not bring victory or stability. They bring chaos and long-term decline. That lesson must not be ignored.

(Full interview at: newsth.live/WangDong)

ROARING SUCCESS

Allen records the fastest century in T20 World Cup history

K.R. DEEPAK

New Zealand's Finn Allen recorded the fastest century in T20 World Cup history, reaching the milestone off just 33 balls in the semifinal against South Africa. He rewrote the record of West Indies' Chris Gayle, who had hit a 47-ball ton against England in 2016. Allen's unbeaten 100 is also the highest score in a T20 WC knockout fixture.

GAME RECOGNISES GAME

South Africa captain Markram doffs his hat to Allen and Seifert

K.R. DEEPAK

Credit to their bowling unit. When someone plays an innings like that, you don't often come out on the right side of it. To get to 169 was a great effort. As it goes in T20 cricket, they got off to a flyer in the PowerPlay. Massive credit to Finn Allen and Tim Seifert to kill the game off as early as they did — SA captain Aiden Markram.

SET PRIORITY

My job as the captain is to make India uncomfortable, says Brook

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Harry Brook fired a salvo at India by saying that his job as the captain was to make it as uncomfortable for the home team as possible during the semifinal. "India are a very good side, and they can adapt to different bowlers. My job is to try and make it as uncomfortable for them as possible," England skipper Brook said.

BOLD CLAIM

'I don't believe we need to have the perfect game to win the T20 WC'

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Despite remaining unbeaten in the Super Eight, England is yet to have the perfect game. Harry Brook, however, isn't concerned. "I don't believe we need the perfect game to win the competition. The games we have won have been nowhere near perfect, and we still managed to win convincingly in some of them," Brook said.

The 33-ball mayhem: Allen's unbeaten 100 was studded with 10 fours and eight sixes. K.R. DEEPAK

Allen has a stroll in the garden as Kiwis reach final

T20 WORLD CUP

Ayan Acharya
KOLKATA

New Zealand reached its second men's T20 World Cup final with a victory so complete that, for all the intrigue of the first half, the chase carried scarcely a tremor of uncertainty. Pursuing 170 at Eden Gardens on Wednesday, the Black Caps swept past the Proteas by nine wickets with 43 balls to spare.

For long stretches earlier, the South African total of 169 for eight had the look of something modest. Much had to be owed to New Zealand's reading of the surface and the matchups.

Slow pitch

The pitch was slower than the one used for the India-West Indies Super Eight game, the ball gripping and refusing to arrive cleanly to the bat. Mitchell Santner recognised it early.

Quinton de Kock's below-par record against off-spin prompted the introduction of Cole McConchie inside the PowerPlay, and the move worked instantly.

The southpaw, having just driven a short, wide ball for four, was denied room next delivery and miscued the pull.

Ryan Rickelton then fell first ball, slicing to backward point.

The squeeze continued through the middle overs as Santner and Rachin Ravindra operated in tandem. Rachin, who had earlier spilled Aiden Markram, dismissed him in his first over and removed David Miller in the next. At 77 for four in 10 overs, South Africa's innings appeared stalled.

The late overs altered that picture.

Jimmy Neesham's 18th over went for 22 as Marco Jansen and Tristan Stubbs broke the rhythm. Jansen struck two sixes off Lockie Ferguson to reach a 27-ball half-century, finishing unbeaten on 55 off 30. South Africa climbed to 169 from what had looked closer to a 140-type total.

If that intervention briefly revived the contest, New Zealand's openers quickly removed the doubt with blistering knocks.

Tim Seifert and Finn Allen attacked the new ball with clear intent, taking 29 from Jansen's opening two overs and 11 from Lungi Ngidi's first.

The Kiwis closed the PowerPlay on 84 without loss. While Santner had introduced spin early, Markram waited until the seventh over to bring on Keshav Maharaj despite having two right-handers at the crease.

By then, the pursuit had taken decisive shape, Allen's unbeaten 33-ball 100 guiding New Zealand to its first T20 World Cup win over South Africa.

SCOREBOARD

SOUTH AFRICA

Aiden Markram c Mitchell b Rachin 18 *(20b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Quinton de Kock c Ferguson b McConchie 10 *(8b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Ryan Rickelton c Allen b McConchie 0 *(1b)*, Dewald Brevis c Santner b Neesham 34 *(27b, 3x4, 2x6)*, David Miller c Mitchell b Rachin 6 *(6b)*, Tristan Stubbs b Ferguson 29 *(24b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Marco Jansen (not out) 55 *(30b, 2x4, 5x6)*, Corbin Bosch b Henry 2 *(3b)*, Kagiso Rabada c Neesham b Henry 0 *(1b)*, Keshav Maharaj (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (lb-1, nb-1, w-12): 14; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 169.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-12 (de Kock, 1.4 overs), 2-12 (Rickelton, 1.5), 3-55 (Markram, 7.4), 4-77 (Miller, 9.6), 5-77 (Brevis, 10.2), 6-150 (Stubbs, 18.1), 7-166 (Bosch, 19.3), 8-166 (Rabada, 19.4).

NEW ZEALAND BOWLING

Henry 4-0-34-2, McConchie 1-0-9-2, Ferguson 4-0-29-1, Neesham 3-0-42-1, Santner 4-0-25-0, Rachin 4-0-29-2.

NEW ZEALAND

Tim Seifert b Rabada 58 *(33b, 7x4, 2x6)*, Finn Allen (not out) 100 *(33b, 10x4, 8x6)*, Rachin Ravindra (not out) 13 *(11b, 2x4)*; Extras (lb-2): 2; Total (for one wkt. in 12.5 overs): 173.

FALL OF WICKET

1-117 (Seifert, 9.1).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING

Jansen 2.5-0-53-0, Rabada 3-0-28-1, Ngidi 2-0-22-0, Bosch 2-0-35-0, Maharaj 3-0-33-0.

Toss: New Zealand; **PoM:** Allen.

New Zealand won by nine wickets with 43 balls to spare and entered the final.

India and England glove up for round three of their semifinal

While the latter won in 2022, the former came up trumps in 2024; the host has to deal with the tag of defending champion

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
MUMBAI

Locked and loaded: The Men in Blue have found balance as the tournament has progressed. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Maximum city, lapped by the Arabian Sea, and high on the constant acoustics of many red cherries thudding into innumerable waiting bats at the Oval Maidan, serves as India's cricketing heartbeat.

In this theatre of drama and history, the Men in Blue will take on England in the ICC T20 World Cup semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium here on Thursday.

An India-England semifinal ushers in memories of another clash at the same venue, albeit in the 50-over format. In the 1987 World Cup, the rivals had a face-off and India was tipped as the favourite.

Even without Dilip Vengsarkar, ruled out due to food poisoning, Kapil Dev's men were expected to prevail. However, Graham Gooch swept the Indian spinners away, and the host was ambushed in the semifinal.

Suryakumar Yadav's men stride in with the weight of being the defending champion. To shrug past the defeat against South Africa, find their voice against Zimbabwe and then prevail over the West Indies in a tight game, would hold them in good stead.

India's campaign was never smooth to begin with, but as the tournament progressed, a certain balance was achieved. The batting has found its high point even if it is often about one primary knock and others rallying around that, like a vine twirling around a strong tree.

Against the West Indies, it was Sanju Samson's remarkable effort (97 n.o.) that lent steel. Abhishek Sharma has a lone fifty to show so far in this championship, and a turnaround would help the host prosper.

Ishan Kishan, Suryakumar and Tilak Varma, besides Hardik Pandya, all have a vital role to play, especially against an England attack that has speedster Jofra Archer, and spinners Adil Rashid and Liam Dawson.

The Indian attack may well consider using Jasprit Bumrah upfront; he is the biggest threat to skipper Harry Brook and company. Brook and Will Jacks have been among the runs, while Jos Buttler has inexplicably struggled. He played a spot of gully cricket on the Mumbai streets; hopefully, the diversion would have cheered him up.

India and England have been constant rivals in the T20 World Cup and this would be their third consecutive semifinal. England won in 2022, and India triumphed in 2024. Suryakumar's men prefer to nurse that winning fervour on a pitch with a tinge of green, and one that is being baked to a crisp by an early summer.

SEMIFINAL

Today's match

India vs England

Mumbai, 7.00 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD

Played: **29**

India **17** | England **12**

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1, 2 & JIOHOTSTAR

Dropping catches a concern, says Morkel

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Abhishek has had a tough time in the field. FILE PHOTO: K.R. DEEPAK

Catches often win matches, but dropped chances can cost dearly. While India's drops have not yet proven fatal in the T20 World Cup, the frequency of missed opportunities has emerged as a worry for Suryakumar Yadav's side ahead of the semifinal against England.

Bowling coach Morne Morkel conceded that the lapses in the field remain a concern. "Obviously, nobody looks to drop a catch on purpose. It's not like we don't train for it," Morkel said. "There is a lot of focus on our fielding, and that was one of the key points heading into the World Cup. The guys train and work hard on their fielding. At times, is it a mindset thing? I can't answer that."

Through seven matches in the tournament, India has dropped 13 catches – the most by any team so far. In the virtual quarterfinal against the West Indies in Kolkata, three chances went down, with Abhishek Sharma dropping two and Tilak Varma spilling another.

Morkel acknowledged that positioning fielders optimally has not always been straightforward in the fast-paced T20 format. "For us it's just about continuing to do the hard work and really focusing on getting certain players into the hot spots and the right areas," he said.

"At times it's hard to do that because you're also working against an overrate. That's the responsibility the players need to take on the field – to find yourself in a position, in the hot zones, and to work a little bit extra. If we can get the right players in those positions, hopefully we can take the catches."

Despite the youthful energy in the squad, the current Indian line-up still has a few fielders a captain might prefer to hide in the outfield. In T20 cricket, though, there are few hiding places.

England slight favourite due to its current form

Sunil Gavaskar

The last time India played England in a semifinal at the Wankhede Stadium, Graham Gooch swept his way to a magnificent century, and England ended defending champions India's dream of contesting a final at home. That was, of course, a One-Day International of 50 overs.

This time, the defending champions play England in a semifinal, albeit in a T20 World Cup. In the previous two semifinals of the T20 World Cup, these teams clashed with mixed results. England won by a thumping margin of 10 wickets in Australia in 2022, and India beat England comfortably in the West Indies in 2024.

The teams are well matched this time too and it could well be a humdinger of a game. Both haven't got off to the best of starts in the batting PowerPlay and it has been the brilliance of an individual – like Suryakumar Yadav against the USA, Ishan Kishan against Pakistan and Sanju Samson against the West Indies – that has given some heft to the Indian totals. Similarly, Harry Brook's century against Pakistan took England home in a tight finish.

Rashid. EMMANUAL YOGINI

The pitch at Wankhede is usually good for batting. There's a fair bit of carry for the bowlers who bend their backs and some help for those who give it a tweak. If England rely on Jofra Archer, Sam Curran and Adil Rashid to control the Indian stroke makers, the home team will depend on Jasprit Bumrah to put the brakes on Brook and his boys. Rashid is cleverly bowling slower than he usually does and is getting turn and bounce, while Will Jacks is having a dream tournament with both bat and ball.

England were a bit ragged in the field in their last Super Eight match against New Zealand and India, too, have dropped more chances than champions should. England, in their current form, are slight favourites, but India will be buoyed by their highest successful T20 World Cup chase against the West Indies. The PowerPlays will be decisive, as usual, unless there's a sublime innings to finish off the game. *(Professional Management Group)*

INBRIEF

India u-17s defeat Myanmar in friendly

The India under-17 men's national team defeated Myanmar under-17s 2-1 at the Thwunna Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar, on Tuesday, in the first friendly.

The result: Myanmar 1 (Myint Myat Ko Ko 54) lost to India 2 (Washington Singh Ngangom 11, Gunleiba Wangkheirakpam 24).

Injured Rodrygo to miss rest of season and World Cup

Brazil international Rodrygo is expected to miss the rest of Real Madrid's season and the World Cup because of a torn ACL and meniscus on his right knee. The 25-year-old Rodrygo was injured in Real's 0-1 LaLiga loss to Getafe on Monday, when he came on as a substitute after having sat out nearly a month due to tendinitis. Neither Real nor Brazil's football federation revealed a timetable for Rodrygo's return. He was not in Brazil's squad for any of the last four World Cup qualifying games last year.

Ankita and Zeel advance in ITF W35 Kalaburagi

Ankita Raina and Zeel Desai progressed easily to the singles second round of the ITF W35 Kalaburagi on Wednesday. While Ankita defeated Sonal Patil 6-1, 6-3, Zeel beat Jennifer Luikham 6-2, 6-4.

Other results (singles, first round): Jasmijn Gimbrere (Ned) bt Aishwarya Jadhav 6-2, 6-1; Polina Kuharenko (Blr) bt Akanksha Dileep Nitture 6-2, 6-1; Anna Sedyasheva (Rus) bt Sandeepthi Singh Rao 6-2, 6-4; Eva Marie Desvignes (Sgp) bt Soha Sadiq 7-5, 6-0; Elina Nepliy (Rus) bt Kashish Bhatia 6-0, 6-4; Evgeniya Burdina (Rus) bt Shrivalli Bhamidipaty 5-1 (retd.).

Maxwell hopeful of playing 2028 Olympics and T20 WC

Australia all-rounder Glenn Maxwell said he remains eager to continue playing T20 Internationals for Australia and has not set a retirement date, keeping the 2028 Olympics and the 2028 T20 World Cup in his plans.

LIVE TELECAST

ISL: Sony Sports Ten 2 & FanCode, 5 p.m.
Men's T20 World Cup (2nd semifinal): India vs England, Star Sports 1 & JioHotstar, 7 p.m.
Premier League: SS Select 1 & JioHotstar, 1.30 a.m. (Friday)

Bittersweet outing: Sanfida's goal went in vain. AP

Vietnam's Van Su breaks Indian hearts

The forward stars with a brace in her side's 2-1 victory over the Blue Tigresses, with her second goal of the day coming in added time

WOMEN'S ASIA CUP

Associated Press
PERTH

Ngan Thi Van Su scored twice, including the clincher in the fourth minute of stoppage time, to guide Vietnam to a 2-1 win over India in a Group-C fixture of the Women's Asia Cup on Wednesday.

Van Su curled a right-foot shot into the top corner from the left side in the 30th minute, and Vietnam almost went ahead 2-0 just after half-time but had a goal disallowed on VAR.

The review determined that a long cross into the box touched the arm of Nguyen Thi Thanh Nha before Thai Thi Thao tapped in amid a goalmouth scramble in the 48th.

Equaliser

India equalised four minutes later on a counterattack when substitute Sanfida Nongrum launched a left-foot strike over the Vietnam goalkeeper.

The game appeared set for a draw until Vu Thi Hoa crossed from the left and Van Su fired a left-foot shot to seal the victory.

It was a setback for India, which hosted the 2022 Women's Asian Cup but had to withdraw after an outbreak of COVID-19 within the squad.

The result: Vietnam 2 (Van Su 30 & 90+4) bt India 1 (Sanfida 52).

Honours board for sports journalists unveiled at Wankhede

Sports Bureau
MUMBAI

The Mumbai Cricket Association (MCA) on Wednesday unveiled an honours board for sports journalists at the Wankhede Stadium press box, recognising the contribution of the city's sports scribes.

The board has been instituted to acknowledge journalists who have played a key role in documenting and promoting Mumbai's cricketing legacy over the decades.

The board has some of the most prestigious names who have contributed immensely to the sports journalism fraternity in India. At the moment, the board has 36 eminent journalists who are no more. The ceremony was attended by MCA president Ajinkya Naik, secretary Unmesh Khanvilkar,

> Mumbai's cricketing legacy has been built not only by players on the field but also by journalists
> **NAIK**

joint secretary Nilesh Bhosle, MCA's apex council members along with senior members of the sports media fraternity, including Sports Journalists' Association of Mumbai president G. Viswanath and secretary Clayton Murzello.

Naik highlighted the role of journalists in shaping the narrative of Mumbai cricket. "Mumbai's cricketing legacy has been built not only by players on the field but also by journalists who have chronicled its journey with integrity and passion," he said.

Recognition: MCA president Ajinkya Naik and Mumbai sports scribes at the inauguration of the honours board at the Balasaheb Thackeray Press Box in Wankhede. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

PCB offers head coach role to Sarfaraz

Press Trust of India
KARACHI

The Pakistan Test squad is set to have its youngest ever head coach with the Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) offering the role to former captain Sarfaraz Ahmed. The PCB is awaiting his final confirmation from the 38-year old former wicketkeeper-batter.

Pakistan has a busy schedule this year as part of the ICC World Test Championship with two Tests scheduled in Bangladesh in May followed by tours to West Indies and England.

Pakistan's last Test series was at home against South Africa late last year. It was drawn 1-1 with former all-rounder Azhar Mahmood working as interim head coach.

A reliable source said since Azhar's contract was ended by the PCB with mutual consent, Sarfaraz is now set to take over as permanent head coach.

Pakistan has never come close to qualifying for the prestigious WTC in its previous three editions.

Last year the board had appointed the wicketkeeper batsman as manager and mentor of the Pakistan Shaheens and under-19 sides. He was also with the team in the ICC World Youth Cup held this year in Zimbabwe and Namibia.

Aravindh beats world champion Gukesh

CHESS

Press Trust of India
PRAGUE

Defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram outwitted compatriot D. Gukesh, relegating the reigning FIDE world champion to the last spot after the sixth round of Masters section of the Prague International Chess Festival here.

Gukesh is now ranked 20 on the live rating list suggesting a clear struggle to maintain his status as world champion. The recent slump has seen him lose over fifty points.

Aravindh finally changed to a Sicilian defense as black after his Philidor experiment failed miserably. Aravindh would have been happy with a draw the way the position unfolded with white having a rook against two knights. But, on the 40th move, with seconds remaining Gukesh made a decisive error. It was all over eight moves later.

Surprisingly, this was the only decisive game of the day with the remaining four ending in draws.

Jorden van Foreest remained in sole lead on 4.5 points drawing with local star David Navara who remained joint second with Abdusattorov Nodirbek of Uzbekistan a half point behind.

David Anton Guijarrov on 3.5 is closest to the three above him after drawing against Parham Maghsoodloo of Iran.

Aravindh with Vincent Keymer of Germany and Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan is next while Niemann is just above Gukesh on 1.5 points.

In the Challengers section, Divya Deshmukh played out a draw with Thomas Beerdsen of Holland while Surya Shekhar Ganguly split the point with Daniil Yuffa of Spain.

Focused: Aravindh is all concentration in the game against Gukesh. PRAGUECHESSFESTIVAL.COM

The results (round 6):
Masters: D. Gukesh (1.5) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (2.5); David Anton Guijarro (3.5) drew with Parham Maghsoodloo (3); Hans Moke Niemann (2) drew with Vincent Keymer (2.5); Nodirbek Yakubboev (2.5) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (4); Jorden van Foreest (4.5) drew with David Navara (4).
Challengers: Daniil Yuffa (3) drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (1.5); Benjamin Gledura (3) bt Nemec Jachym (3); Divya Deshmukh (3) drew with Thomas Beerdsen (3.5); Hrbek Stepan (3.5) drew with Jonas Buhl Bjerre (3); Zhu Jiner (2) drew with Finek Vanclav (4.5).

Pakistan drops Saim and Babar

Associated Press
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan has dropped seasoned batter Babar Azam and all-rounder Saim Ayub for the upcoming three-match ODI series in Bangladesh.

The selectors also dropped spin-bowling all-rounders Mohammad Nawaz and Shadab Khan, but surprisingly kept T20 captain Salman Ali Agha in the ODI contingent.

Six uncapped players

The 15-member squad comprises six uncapped players, including opener Sahibzada Farhan, who tops the batting chart at the T20 World Cup with 383 runs.

Abdul Samad, who is renowned for his aggressive batting in T20s, Shamyl Hussain, a 21-year-old opening batter, and Maaz Sadaqat are uncapped at the ODI level.

Ghazi Ghori is the backup wicketkeeper-batter, while Pakistan has recalled former captain Mohammad Rizwan for the tour.

Mohammad Wasim and Haris Rauf are the fast bowlers alongside Shaheen Afridi, who will continue to lead the ODI team.

Leg-spinner Abrar Ahmed will be the frontline slow bowler, with left-arm wrist spinner Faisal Akram the other option. The series will be played from March 11 to 15, with Dhaka hosting all games.

The squad: Shaheen Afridi (Capt.), Abdul Samad, Abrar Ahmed, Faheem Ashraf, Faisal Akram, Haris Rauf, Hussain Talat, Maaz Sadaqat, Mohammad Rizwan, Mohammad Wasim, Muhammad Ghazi Ghori, Saad Masood, Sahibzada Farhan, Salman Ali Agha and Shamyl Hussain.

Speed and youth will work in India's favour: Baljeet

FIH WC QUALIFIERS

Press Trust of India
HYDERABAD

India midfielder Baljeet Kaur has expressed confidence in the women's hockey squad ahead of FIH World Cup 2026 Qualifiers here, emphasising the team's "young and speedy" composition as a key advantage for securing a spot in the main tournament.

As the team gears up for the Qualifiers in Hyderabad, the 24-year-old Baljeet is among the players eager to make an impact and help India secure qualification to the Women's FIH Hockey World Cup later this year.

"Our goal is to win and qualify for the World Cup. We want to perform well and give our best so that we can bring a medal for the country," Baljeet said.

She also believes the current squad has the right balance to achieve something special.

"There are many young and speedy players in the team and it's a very good combination.

"The flow within the group is good and the fitness level is high," she noted.

Good progress

"The camp went very well and the training sessions were good. We worked on different aspects, including our shooting, and everything progressed well," she shared.

"Before coming to the camp, one of my main focus areas was improving my fitness, and I worked a lot on that during the training period," she said.

Her journey in hockey began more than a decade ago in her village Kaka Kandiala in Punjab, when she was studying in the seventh standard. What began as curiosity soon turned into a deep passion for the sport.

"I started playing hockey in 2012. My uncle's daughter used to play hockey, and I would always ask her where she was going early in the morning. She would tell me she was going to the ground to practice, and that sparked my curiousity and made me want to start playing as well," recalled Baljeet.

She eventually broke into the senior Indian team setup in 2022 but admits that the journey since then has come with its share of ups and downs.

The goal

"Since 2022, sometimes I have been in the team and sometimes I have been out of it. My goal is to keep improving and continue playing for India - that is the only thing on my mind," she explained.

India will open its campaign against Uruguay on March 8, followed by matches against Scotland and Wales on March 9 and 11 respectively.

Optimistic: Baljeet, in action against the Netherlands in the FIH Women's Pro League, is confident of India's chances. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Central Excise & Customs beats AGORC

Half centuries from Snehal Kauthankar (84) and Niranjan (92), and a five-wicket haul from M.B. Darshan (5/30) fashioned Central Excise & Customs' 43-run win over AGORC in the KSCA (Group II) first division tournament.

The scores: Central Excise & Customs 225/4 in 20 overs (Snehal Suhas Kauthankar 84, Niranjan 92) bt AGORC 182/8 in 20 overs (M.S. Bhandage 67, M.B. Darshan 5/30).

HAL SC 108/9 in 20 overs lost to DELL 114/6 in 14.2 overs.

State Bank Of India 150/8 in 20 overs lost to Rail Wheel Factory SA 156/2 in 16.2 overs (Sagar Solanki 63, Rohan Patil 58 n.o.).

Rohith stars for DSCE

Rohith's all-round effort (61 & 5/37) helped DSCE thrash RVCE by 77 runs in the M.S. Ramaiah Memorial State-level inter-engineering colleges cricket tournament here on Wednesday.

The scores: MSRIT A 207 in 27.5 overs (Chinmay 61, Rohan 46, Sreecharan 43) bt MSRIT-B 159/7 in 30 overs (Adhoksh 45).

DSCE 215/3 in 30 overs (Sai Nandan 72, V. Rohith 61) bt RVCE 138 in 23.3 overs (Kaustubh 55, Rohith 5/37).

Narrow win for Bangalore Vanguards

Aditi scored 24 points as Bangalore Vanguards edged out Bharath Sports Union 38-34 in a Mathru Cup State-level basketball championship for women for the SMN Memorial Trophy here on Wednesday.

The results: Bangalore Vanguards 38 (Aditi 24) bt Bharath Sports Union 34; JSC 52 (Tharushi 18) bt YMMA BC 23; Pattabhiramanagar BC 35 bt Koramangala BC 24; Young Orions SC 48 bt Bangalore Sporting BC 28; Viveks SC 55 (Vedika 18) bt Kolar District 4; All Stars BC Mysore 41 bt MCHS BC 36.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED (CNNL)

(A Government of Karnataka under taking)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Manchanabele Project Division,
Bangalore South District, Ramanagara, Karnataka,
e-mail: **eempdrmgm@gmail.com (080-27271259)**

No.: EE/MPDiv./RMN/TND-14/2025-26 Date: 04.03.2026

Short Term Tender Notification

The CNNL hereby invites Tender for the different kinds of works under 4701 head through **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal for Ramanagara, Kanakapura and Channapatna Constituency. The last date for Pre Bid Meeting, tender submission, Opening of Technical Bid, Financial Bid dates, EMD details and more information can downloaded from the website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** portal and for further information please visit office at working hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, M.P. Division
CNNL, Bangalore South District, Ramanagara

DIPR/BSD/672/SA/2025-26

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED

(BELLARY THERMAL POWER STATION)
CIN: U85110KA1970SGC001919

BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION

(Two Cover System) (Through KPP Portal only)

KPCL invites tenders through KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** for the following works:

1) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3924/CALL-2 Dated: 23.02.2026 Radiography of Weld joints of Pressure parts during Annual Overhauling works and emergency tube failures of boiler Unit # 1, 2 & 3. Amount put to tender Exclusive of GST (Approx.): **Rs.29.86 Lakhs**. EMD: **Rs.59,800/-**. Period of contract: **365 days** (Any time during the year 2026-27). Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (BM)**, Mobile: 94808 30316 .

2) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3479/CALL-3 Dated: 25.02.2026 Upgradation / replacement of existing spark gap HEA ignition system by Thyristor based ignition system for HFO/LDO oil elevation - Unit-2-BTPS. **EMD: Rs.1,30,235/-.** Last date for receipt of tender: **11.03.2026 at 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (I&C)-1**, Mobile: 94482 90737 .

3) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT4011 Dated: 25.02.2026 Carrying out Monitoring, Preventive and Breakdown maintenance and overhauling works of U-1, 2 & 3 Fire Protection System, Fire alarm & detection system at BTPS-For a period of 12 months. Amount put to tender: **Rs.84,70,379/-. EMD: Rs.1,69,408/-.** Last date for submit/upload their offer only through e-proc. platform **on or before 12.03.2026, 17.30 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (Safety)**, Mobile: 94482 90770.

4) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3994 Dated: 23.02.2026 Providing, Installation, Testing and commissioning of 3 stat rated Split AC's at various locations of BTPS. Last date for submission of tender through e-portal only on or before **10.03.2026 up to 16.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (CAM-1)**, Mobile: 82775 02836.

5) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3988 Dated: 23.02.2026 Casting and machining/providing and installation of various size Globe valves, Gate valves, Plug valves and Butterfly valve of Unit-1 AHP at BTPS. Total amount put to tender: (Exclusive of GST): **Rs.19,80,749/-. EMD: Rs.49,600/-.**

6) Tender No. KPCL/2025-26/PS/WORK_INDENT3996 Dated: 23.02.2026 Machining, reconditioning and supply of vent fan and clinker grinder spares, including oil seals of various sizes, for Unit-1 AHP at BTPS. Total amount put to tender: (Exclusive of GST): **Rs.10,05,329/-. EMD: Rs.25,200/-.** Last date for submission of bids: For Sl. No. 5 & 6: **16.03.2026, 17.00 Hrs.** Further details can be obtained from the **Executive Engineer (AHP)-1**, BTPS, KPCL, Kudithini-583152, Bellary Dist. Mobile: 94482 90768.

Indian Overseas Bank

Central Office: 763, ANNA SALAI, CHENNAI-600002

Indian Overseas Bank Invites Request for Proposal (RFP) from

1.Leading general insurance companies for providing Personal Accidental Insurance Cover for all Special Products under SB & CD accounts of Indian Overseas Bank

2.Leading life insurance companies for providing Term Life Insurance Cover for Salary Package SB accounts of Indian Overseas Bank.

Details of tender can be obtained from **www.iob.bank.in.** under the tender section.

Last date and time for receipt of proposals: **26-03-2026, 5:00 pm**

05.03.2026 **Deputy General Manager (MDD)**

Government of Karnataka
(PWD Division Raichur)
Executive Engineer
Public works department division Raichur
Telephone No. : 08532-225778
THESE WORKS ARE CATEGORY WISE CONTRACTORS

PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2025-26/5642 Date: 25-02-2025

Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Short Term Tender Notification -(KW- 1, 2,3 & 4)

1) Notification No & Date: PWD/RDN/TS-4/TN/2025-26/5642 Date: 25-02-2025 **2) Name of work's:** Raichur District Total 40 work's Raichur, Manvi, Deodurga, Lingasugur & Sindhanur taluk Different types of Buildings, Bridges & Road works.**3) Amount of works:** Min Rs. 245000.00 Max Rs. 50415220.88 **4) EMD Amount:** Min Rs. 4400.00 Max Rs. 756500.00 **5) Period (including Manson):** Min 1 (One) Month Max 11 (Eleven) Months **6) Last Date and Time for Receipt of Tender:** 06/03/2026 16:00:00 **7) Date and Time for Opening of Tender:** 07/03/2026 16:30:00

Due to any reasons dates, retender any other changes will be notified in the KPPP Portal only No separate paper notification will be issued & For More details visit this website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,
PWD Division, RAICHUR.

DIP/RCR/735/KSMCA/738/2025-26

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CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Date:	03 March 2026
Loan No. and Title:	Loan No:P59311-001 IND/Chennai Climate resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP) and E-Procurement Notice
Contract No. and Title:	CNT/UGSS/NCB/ADB/005/2025-26 Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – **SW-04** - Rehabilitation and upgradation of existing Sewage pumping stations, Rising main, E&M works and SCADA system in Areas 9,10 & 13 and Central Command Centre at Head office of CMWSSB.
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	08/04/2026 Up to 15.00 Hours

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu through Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB
2. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board ("the Employer") invites E-bids from eligible Bidders.
3. The Scope of Work: Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – **SW-04** - Rehabilitation and upgradation of existing Sewage pumping stations, Rising mains, E&M works and SCADA system in Areas 9,10 & 13 and Central Command Centre at Head office of CMWSSB.
   Reconstruction of 13nos of well of 2.5m to 8m diameter and depth – 5m to 11m, Laying of pumping main for a length of 8.27km of sizes from 150mm to 600mm and upgradation of existing/damaged and various components of Sewage pumping station viz., Compound wall, Formation of road, Construction of Pump room & Toilet, Planting of plants and shrubs, Installation of 52 Nos. of non-clog submersible sewage pump sets ranging from 2.2 kW to 132 kW in 22 Nos of SPS along with RMG whereever applicable, Installation of SCADA/IoT works for 9 SPS including installation of 39 nos pressure transmitters, 9 Nos of ultrasonic level transmitters, and 4 nos of DO sensors for STP monitoring, Installation of odour control system for 25 nos of Sewage Pumping Stations (SPS), Associated Mechanical work and Establishing a Master Control Centre at the Head Office and TNSDC for 24/7 real-time monitoring and control of all stations.
4. Open competitive bidding – National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:
   Technical criteria specified is for at least one contract that has been satisfactorily completed within the last Five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).

S No.	Qualification Criteria	Details
1.	Supply, laying and commissioning of pumping mains of dia minimum of 300mm of CI/PSC/RCC/DI for a minimum length, successfully completed in one single contract.	4 km
2.	Construction, testing and successfully completed min 7 number of RCC wells in sewage pumping stations of min size in one single contract.	4m dia and 5.5m depth
3.	Construction and commissioning of sewage pumping stations of total installed capacity of including atleast one number of capacity pumps in a single contract.	313 KW & 66 KW
4.	Design and installation of SCADA system for an entire sewerage System in one single contract.	1 No.

Financial criteria specified are to be achieved within the last 5 years (2020–2021 to 2024–2025). (Rs. in Crores)

S No.	Qualification Criteria	Details (Rs. in Crores)
	Achieved minimum annual construction turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed.	72.80
	For Joint Venture (maximum three partners), for all partners combined (must meet the requirement)	72.80
	For any one partner	36.40
5.	For each partner	18.20
6.	One Sewerage network construction with the component of the proposed works of the value of not less than	43.68

Details of bid security and dates of Prebid meeting, bids closing date and bids opening dates

NIT No.	Name of work	E-Bid Security (INR)	Pre bid meeting Date	E-Bid Submission closing Date	E-Bid Opening Date
1.	Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – **SW-04** - Rehabilitation and upgradation of existing Sewage pumping stations, Rising mains, E&M works and SCADA system in Areas 9,10 & 13 and Central Command Centre at Head office of CMWSSB.	1.09 Cr	12/03/2026 at 11.00 Hours	08/04/2026 Upto 15.00 Hours	08/04/2026 15.30 Hours

Note : Only E-Bid security is accepted.
More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.
6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
   SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACT & MONITORING)
   CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD,
   No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai-02
   Telephone: +91 44 28451300. Extn.254
   E-mail: secandm@gmail.com
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
   refer to https://tntenders.gov.in (e-procurement portal of the Employer). The Bidding Documents will be available online on the website at www.tntenders.gov.in until before the deadline of bid submission.
8. **Deliver your bid**
   Online at https://tntenders.gov.in on or before the deadline date specified at15:00 hours (IST) together with a E-Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   Details of submission and opening of bids are as detailed above.
   Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Employer/Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission/delivery of bids.

CE(O&M)-II/SE(C&M)i/c.
(Contracts &Monitoring)

DIPR/1561/Tender/2026

Govt of Karnataka
O/o Executive Engineer, PWD, Udupi Division
Udupi - 576101. C.No : (0820) 2531802

No.PWD:UDN:NIT-51:2025-26:AE-2 Dated: 03.03.2026

Short term Tender Notification

It is here by notified for the information of intending eligible registered contractor in Karnataka PWD, through e-portal **"kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** as per Karnataka tranperency in public procurement act - 2023, as per specified terms & condition notified there in. The Last date for submission of tender on **11.03.2026** through E-procurement portal **"kppp.karnataka.gov.in"** under **CMIDP** head, work costing **Rs. 100 Lakhs 3 Road works.** For more information contact office during office hours.

Sd/-, Executive Engineer,
Public works department
Udupi Division, Udupi.

DIPR/ADU/KSMCA/759/25-26 Dt: 04.03.2026

Government of Karnataka
Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division Belagavi

No.PRE/BD/PB-2/Tender-66/2025-26/7716 Date: 04-03-2026

Tender Invited (E- Procurement)

Executive Engineer, Panchayat Raj Engineering Division, Belagavi here by invited tender from Registered Contractors for the Item rates through kppp Portal. There are total 10 (**23658/CALL-2, 24054/CALL-2, 24056 CALL-2, 22831/CALL-2, 24079/CALL-2, 13662, 21270/CALL-3, 22795/ CALL-2, 24243/Call-2, 24627/Call-2**) work have been called, Standard of tender documents KW-1, 2, 3 for price of Highest and Lowest Estimated Cost **Rs. 86.00 Lakhs** and **Rs. 5.00 Lakh** respectively and also Highest and Lowest EMD has As Per E procurement for each work. The last date for Submission of any Quarries is **11-03-2026 17:28 PM,** the last date for submission of tender bid is on **11-03-2026 17:28 PM.** Opening of technical bid is on **13-03-2026 11-00 AM** and Expected Financial bid will be opened on **13-03-2026 11:30 AM**. For any other information/ clarifications please contact the below signed office, and also search internet for kppp-Portal website **http://kppp-proc.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Panchayat Raj Engineering Division
Belagavi

DIPR/BELAGAVI/1988/2025-26/DESHPANDEPUBLICITY

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER -2nd Call
(only through KPP-Portal)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Contractors for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (North),6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K. G. Road, Bangalore-560009.

Division	IFT Number	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & Time for Opening of Tender
North-2	BWSSB/ENTE/AE-1/4006/2025-26 Date: 26.02.2026	Rs.27,21,947/- / Rs.54,500/-	19.03.2026 upto 3:00 PM	20.03.2026 after 4.00 PM

Sd/- Executive Engineer (North-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the abovesigned office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/5993/SSC/2025-26

Office of the Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground water Development, Division, Kashipur Circle, Shivamogga-577204.

Dated: 02.03.2026 IFT No.: 48/2025-26.

SECTION 1-INVITATION FOR TENDERS KW- 3/4

The Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation &Ground water Development Division, Shivamogga invites tenders in Stand ard Bid Document KW-3/4 through kpp- procurement portal of the Government of Karnataka, viz.,http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from eligible contractors for the work of coming under M.I sub-division SHIKARIPURA amounting from Rs.51.99 lakhs to Rs.120.55 lakhs Period of downloading tender documents from e-procurement portal: From 02.03. 2026 to 16.03.2026 upto 17:00 hrs. Tender opening date at 17:15 hrs on 17.03.2026. Any other details may be obtained from the office of the undersigned during office hours on all working days. Details published on the e-procurement website @ http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in are final.

Sd/- Executive Engineer M.I & G.W.D. Division, Shimoga.

DIPR/smg/KSMCA/25-26/13/03/1940

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Date:	**03 March 2026**
Loan No. and Title:	Loan No:P59311-001 IND / Chennai Climate resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP) and E-Procurement Notice
Contract No. and Title:	CNT/UGSS/NCB/ADB/002/2025-26 Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP **catchment area – SW-01** - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 15 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 10 & 13 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.
Deadline for Sub-mission of Bids:	**08/04/2026 upto 15.00 Hours**

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu through Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board ("the Employer") invites E-bids from eligible Bidders.
3. The Scope of Work: Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-01 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 15 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 10 & 13 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years including other works within the contract scope. ("the Works").
Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 57.067 km of DWC / CI / HDPE gravity mains of sizes varying from 200mm dia to 700mm dia by Pipe bursting, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and open cut method of laying. Construction and upgradation of 1633 Nos of precast and cast in situ machine holes and Providing 8013 Nos of house sewer connections (HSCs) with 110mm and 160mm dia MDPE pipes. Operation and maintenance of entire collection system for a period of 5 years.
4. Open competitive bidding – National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:
   • Technical criteria specified is for at least one contract that has been satisfactorily completed within the last Five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).

S. No.	Qualification Criteria	Details
1	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 350mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed in one single contract.	20 km
2	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 250mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed using Trenchless Technology by pipe bursting / HDD in one single contract.	5 km
3	Operation & Maintenance of Sewerage Network system for a period of at least one year	1 project

• Financial criteria specified are to be achieved within the last 5 years (2020–2021 to 2024–2025). (Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Qualification Criteria	Details Rs. in Crores
4	Achieved minimum annual construction turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed.	**93.61**
	For Joint Venture (maximum three partners), for all partners combined (must meet the requirement)	**93.61**
	For any one partner	**46.80**
	For each partner	**23.40**
5	One Sewerage network construction with the component of the proposed works of the value of not less than	**56.17**

• Details of bid security and dates of Prebid meeting, bids closing date and bids opening dates

NIT No.	Name of work	E-Bid Security (INR)	Pre bid meeting Date	E-Bid Submission closing Date	E-Bid Opening Date
1	Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-01 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 15 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 10 & 13 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years	**1.40 Cr**	**12/03/2026 at 11.00 Hours**	**08/04/2026 Upto 15.00 Hours**	**08/04/2026 15.30 Hours**

Note : Only E-Bid security is accepted.
More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.
6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACT & MONITORING)
CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD,
No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai-02
Telephone: +91 44 28451300, Extn - 254.
E-mail: secandm@gmail.com
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
   • Refer to https://tntenders.gov.in(e-procurement portal of the Employer). The Bidding Documents will be available online on the website at **www.tntenders.gov.in** until before the deadline of bid submission.
8. Deliver your bid
   • Online at **https://tntenders.gov.in** on or before the deadline date specified at **15:00 hours** (IST) together with a E-Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   • Details of submission and opening of bids are as detailed above.
Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Employer/Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission/delivery of bids.

CE (O&M)-II/SE (C&M) i/c.
(Contracts & Monitoring)

DIPR/1573/TENDER/2026

CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH E-TENDER
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING

Date:	**03 March 2026**
Loan No. and Title:	Loan No:P59311-001 IND/Chennai Climate resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP) and E-Procurement Notice
Contract No. and Title:	CNT/UGSS/NCB/ADB/004/2025-26 Improvement to Existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.
Deadline for Submission of Bids:	**08/04/2026 Up to 15.00 Hours**

1. The Government of Tamil Nadu through Government of India has applied for financing from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) toward the cost of Chennai Climate Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project (CCRWSSP). Part of this financing will be used for payments under the Contract named above. Bidding is open to Bidders from eligible source countries of ADB.
2. The Chennai Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board ("the Employer") invites E-bids from eligible Bidders.
3. The Scope of Work: Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years. Including other works within the contract scope. ("the Works").
Supplying, laying, testing and commissioning of 59.425 km of DWC / CI / HDPE gravity mains of sizes varying from 200mm dia to 700mm dia by Pipe bursting, Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) and open cut method of laying. Construction and upgradation of 1666 Nos of precast and cast in situ machine holes and Providing 7928 Nos of house sewer connections (HSCs) with 110mm and 160mm dia MDPE pipes. Operation and maintenance of entire collection system for a period of 5 years.
4. Open competitive bidding – National advertisement will be conducted in accordance with ADB's Single-Stage: Two-Envelope bidding procedure and is open to all Bidders from eligible countries as described in the Bidding Document.
5. Only eligible Bidders with the following key qualifications defined in the Bidding Document may participate in this bidding:
   • Technical criteria specified is for at least one contract that has been satisfactorily completed within the last Five years (2020-2021 to 2024-2025).

S. No.	Qualification Criteria	Details
1.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 350mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed in one single contract.	20 km
2.	Supply, laying and commissioning of gravity sewer mains of dia minimum of 200mm of HDPE/DWC/CI/RCC for a minimum length, successfully completed using Trenchless Technology by pipe bursting / HDD in one single contract.	5.40 km
3.	Operation & Maintenance of Sewerage Network system for a period of at least one year	1 project

• Financial criteria specified are to be achieved within the last 5 years (2020-2021 to 2024–2025). (Rs. in Crores)

S. No.	Qualification Criteria	Details (Rs. in Crores)
4.	Achieved minimum annual construction turnover calculated as total certified payments received for contracts in progress or completed.	89.30
	For Joint Venture (maximum three partners), for all partners combined (must meet the requirement)	89.30
	For any one partner	44.65
	For each partner	22.32
5.	One Sewerage network construction with the component of the proposed works of the value of not less than	53.57

• Details of bid security and dates of Prebid meeting, bids closing date and bids opening dates

NIT No.	Name of work	E-Bid Security (INR)	Pre bid meeting Date	E-Bid Submission closing Date	E-Bid Opening Date
1	Improvement to existing sewerage system under Nesapakkam STP catchment area – SW-03 - Rehabilitation and enlargement of existing collection system with HSCs under 7 Nos of LS/SPS in Area 9 & 10 and Operation & maintenance of entire collection system for 5 years.	**1.34 Cr**	**12/03/2026 at 11.00 Hours**	**08/04/2026 Upto 15.00 Hours**	**08/04/2026 15.30 Hours**

Note: Only E-Bid security is accepted.
More details of qualification requirements are mentioned in the Bidding Documents.
6. To obtain further information and inspect the bidding documents, Bidders should contact:
SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER (CONTRACT & MONITORING)
CHENNAI METROPOLITAN WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD,
No.1, Pumping Station Road, Chintadripet, Chennai-02
Telephone: +91 44 28451300. Extn:254
E-mail: secandm@gmail.com
7. To purchase the bidding documents in English, eligible Bidders should:
   • Refer to **https://tntenders.gov.in** (e-procurement portal of the Employer). The Bidding Documents will be available online on the website at **www.tntenders.gov.in** until before the deadline of bid submission.
8. Deliver your bid
   • Online at **https://tntenders.gov.in** on or before the deadline date specified at15:00 hours (IST) together with a E-Bid Security as described in the Bidding Document.
   • Details of submission and opening of bids are as detailed above.
Bids will be opened promptly after the deadline for bid submission in the presence of Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.
9. The Employer/Purchaser will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by Bidders in connection with the preparation or submission/delivery of bids.

CE (O&M)-II/SE (C&M) i/c.
(Contracts & Monitoring)

DIPR/1574/TENDER/2026

Liverpool rocked by a late loss at Wolves

Everton's win pushes Burnley closer to relegation; Sunderland edges Leeds; Bournemouth and Brentford share a goalless draw

Clinching it: Andre's last-gap strike for Wolves condemns Liverpool to defeat. REUTERS

PREMIER LEAGUE

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

Liverpool suffered an embarrassing 2-1 defeat at Wolves as Andre's stoppage-time strike sealed a dramatic victory for the Premier League's bottom club on Tuesday. Arne Slot's side fell behind to Rodrigo Gomes' strike in the closing stages at Molineux.

Mohamed Salah hauled Liverpool level with his first goal in 11 top-flight games dating back to November.

But Andre's first goal for Wolves inflicted the latest humbling loss in a chastening season for Liverpool.

It was the first time the Premier League's bottom club had beaten the reigning champion since Crystal Palace defeated Chelsea in 2017.

Liverpool has conceded 14 goals in the last 15 minutes of the second half, including five in the 90th minute or later – the most by any side in a single season in the Premier League era.

The Reds remain fifth but their hopes of qualifying for next season's Champions League have been hurt.

Liverpool's first defeat in five games in all competitions will raise fresh questions about Slot's Anfield future.

This was the first of Liverpool's two trips to Molineux in the space of four days, with an immediate chance for revenge in the FA Cup fifth round on Friday. Everton ended its dismal home form and pushed Burnley closer to relegation with a 2-0 win.

Everton remain in contention for a European berth, while Burnley is eight points from safety with just nine games left.

Habib Diarra's penalty fired Sunderland to a 1-0 victory against Leeds on its first Premier League visit to Elland Road since 2002.

Bournemouth and Brentford shared a goalless draw at the Vitality Stadium that did little to improve either side's hopes of qualifying for Europe.

The results: Bournemouth 0 drew with Brentford 0; Everton 2 (Tarkowski 32, Dewsbury-Hall 60) bt Burnley 0; Leeds 0 lost to Sunderland 1 (Diarra 70-pen); Wolves 2 (Rodrigo Gomes 78, Andre 90+4) bt Liverpool 1 (Salah 83).

Satwik-Chirag pair exits in the first round

BADMINTON

Sports Bureau

The Indian men's doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty on Wednesday lost its round of 32 match against Malaysia's Aaron Tai and Khai Xing Kang at the All England Open in Birmingham.

The World No. 4 pair went down 23-21, 21-12 in 42 minutes and crashed out of the competition.

The Indians trailed for a major part of the opening game until saving two game points and levelling the score at 20-20.

But the Malaysian pair took the decisive points to snatch the opener.

The second game was a one-sided affair with Satwik and Chirag trailing by as many seven points at one stage.

The Malaysians won the last four points of the game to advance to the next round.

Other results (round-of-32):
Men: Alwi Farhan (Ina) bt Ayush Shetty 19-21, 21-9, 21-17.
Mixed doubles: Thom Gicquel & Delphine Delrue (Fra) bt Rohan Kapoor & Ruthvika Gadde 21-12, 21-15.
On Tuesday: Women's doubles: Sayaka Hirota & Ayako Sakuramoto (Jpn) bt Treesa Jolly & Gayatri Gopichand 21-15, 15-21, 21-18.

Big scalp: Khai and Aaron exult after their upset victory.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Teams on edge as F1 reset faces litmus test

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
MELBOURNE

Formula One's new era starts at this weekend's season-opening Australian Grand Prix, where teams will leap into the unknown and grapple with sweeping technical changes under race conditions for the first time.

F1 has simultaneously overhauled chassis and power unit regulations for the first time in decades, posing a challenge for drivers and engineers alike while raising concerns about the quality of racing.

With near-parity between electrical and combustion engines and cars running on 100% advanced sustainable fuel, drivers gained some insight into the changes during winter testing. But all are in the dark about how the reset will play out when going wheel-to-wheel on race-day.

"I'm certainly more comfortable now than I was a couple of months ago, with how to drive these cars and how to try and get the most out of them," McLaren's Oscar Piastri told reporters on Wednesday. "But I think there's still the saying of, 'You don't know what you don't know'."

Australian Piastri said McLaren thought they had the cars worked out two months ago, only to find they had "a whole bunch of stuff" they did not understand during winter testing.

Readying for debut: Crew members of the new Cadillac team at work ahead of the season-opener. AFP

More tactical

With more power generated by electricity than last year's engines, there is more emphasis on drivers needing to be tactical with energy deployment and regeneration.

The old drag reduction system has been replaced by a new overtake mode giving extra power for overtaking.

Four-times World champion Max Verstappen described the changes as "like Formula E on steroids" and "anti-racing".

Formula One chief executive Stefano Domenicali defended them and assured fans there will still be plenty of thrills. The changes may have different effects at different circuits, leaving all teams to learn on the fly, week by week.

Piastri said Sunday's race at Albert Park would probably showcase the more "unnatural" parts of driving. "You know, a lot more lift and coast, a lot more kind of just driving to maximise the power unit," he said.

"You've got power units that are reducing in power down the straights at different points. And there's a lot of unknowns, a lot of challenges in there."

The new regulations raised hopes of a more open championship and the prospect of a disruptor team emerging to force change at the top. But pre-season testing in Bahrain hinted at a familiar top four, with Ferrari, Mercedes, Red Bull and McLaren all performing.

Audi team principal Jonathan Wheatley said the gap between the "best and the rest" might only widen.

"I think it's going to be a very different year in terms of the competitiveness in the sport," he told Reuters. "We're already seeing the gap between the fastest teams and the slowest teams, but larger than it's been in the last few years."

Whatever the pecking order, F1 race tracks will be more crowded with the addition of the new Cadillac team although there may be more breathing room at Albert Park given Aston Martin's pre-season troubles.

Despite the technical guidance of Adrian Newey, who joined from Red Bull, the Honda-powered team completed few laps during winter testing and has reliability problems.

The AMR26 cars will be in Australia – something of a relief for F1 management – but may only race for a few laps before retiring.

Authorised Dealers: Bengaluru: (Mahadevpura): Raja Ganesh Motors: 72300 87090 / 96200 18618; (Brookefield): Raja Ganesh Motors: 72300 87090; (Bommasandra): Raja Ganesh Motors: 1800 2022 866 / 98804 95353 ; (Jakkur): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sadashivanagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Mysore Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Rajajinagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Kalyan Nagar): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Hennur Road): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (Sreerampura Okhlipuram): PPS Motors: 88007 76947; (J P Nagar): Karr Motor Ventures: 99007 74597; (Magadi Road): Karr Motor Ventures: 92205 04515; (Bannerghata Road): Karr Motor Ventures: 92205 04524; (HSR Layout): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (St. Marks Road): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (Sarjapur): TAFE Access: 78742 23333; (Off Hosur Road): TAFE Access: 95919 98570; **Belgaum:** Raja Motors Corp: 80508 63045 / 80508 63048 / 80508 93561; **Hubballi:** Raja Motors Corp: 0836-2278555 / 80508 54183 / 80501 57899; **Davangere:** Raja Motors Corp: 80508 93564 / 80501 57907 / 83622 78555; **Mangalore:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444 / 93848 22472; **Mysore:** (Koorgalli Industrial Estate): Palace Škoda: 97422 08080; (New Kantharaj URS Road): Palace Škoda: 97422 08080; **Tumkur:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Udupi:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444; **Shivammogga:** TAFE Access: 78743 34444 / 78742 23333; **Bellary:** PPS Motors: 88007 76947; **Gulbarga:** PPS Motors: 92811 13811; **Hassan:** Palace Škoda: 97422 08080

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